

Area Prescribing Group report

Date: Friday 04 July 2025 **Quorate:** Yes

The items in this report are supported by the area prescribing group (APG) and approval by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB) is detailed below.

All document links provided for any CMAPG recommendations, can be found via the [legacy Pan Mersey formulary](#). The [legacy Cheshire formulary](#) will also be updated to reflect these changes.

The legacy Pan Mersey APC website is now closed. All legacy Pan Mersey APC documents are available by using the search function of the [legacy Pan Mersey formulary](#) until harmonisation concludes.

CMAPG governance documents are hosted on the [Prescribing](#) section of the NHS Cheshire and Merseyside website.

Please note there may be items that have been considered by APG but not yet approved by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB. Items will be reported in the month that they are approved.

New medicines NICE TAs

| Proposal | Notes | Approval |
|--|---|--|
| Somapacitan for treating growth hormone deficiency in people 3 to 17 years RAG designation: Red RAG APG subgroup: 13 Jun 2025 APG: 04 Jul 2025 | Date of NICE TA publication: 03 Jun 2025 Approval for implementation: 30 days Deadline for implementation: 03 Jul 2025 Red RAG rating to be assigned in formulary, in line with NICE TA1066 . Tariff-excluded high cost drug for specialist use only. | ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group: 17 July 2025, approved by MOP group. |

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| | <p>The company has agreed a nationally available price reduction for somapacitan with the Medicines Procurement and Supply Chain, which is commercial in confidence. Somapacitan can only be used if the company provides it at the same price or lower than that agreed with the Medicines Procurement and Supply Chain, which is only available to Trusts and not in primary care.</p> <p>Somapacitan is a further treatment option which is administered once per week. Somatrogen is administered weekly and somatropin is administered daily.</p> <p>The cost comparison undertaken by NICE suggests that the cost of somapacitan is similar to or lower than the cost of somatropin, therefore this is expected to be cost neutral.</p> | |

New medicines other

| Proposal | Notes | Approval |
|--|--|---|
| GLP-1 agonists with insulin for treating type 2 diabetes Do Not Prescribe RAG designation – combination products Tirzepatide for type 2 diabetes Cheshire and Merseyside Type 2 diabetes prescribing guidance | <p>Proposal to harmonise the RAG rating for use of GLP-1 agonists with insulin, as separate products, as amber initiated RAG designation for treating type 2 diabetes. This includes use of tirzepatide (a dual GIP and GLP-1 agonist) with insulin.</p> <p>Additional proposal to harmonise the RAG rating for combination products consisting of a GLP-1 agonist and insulin as Do Not Prescribe (DNP) RAG designation.</p> <p>The green RAG statement for use of tirzepatide for type 2 diabetes has been amended to reflect that tirzepatide</p> | <p>ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group: 17 July 2025, approved by MOP group.</p> |

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| <p>RAG designation:</p> <p>Amber initiated RAG designation – separate products.</p> <p>Do Not Prescribe RAG designation – combination products</p> <p>APG subgroup: 13 Jun 2025</p> <p>APG: 04 Jul 2025</p> | <p>may be used with insulin and has been brought in line with the tirzepatide statement for use in weight management.</p> <p>The Cheshire and Merseyside type 2 diabetes prescribing guidance produced by the Cheshire and Merseyside diabetes clinical network has been updated following discussion at the February APG meeting.</p> | |
| Heylo system for stoma leakage notification | <p>For noting.</p> <p>A grey RAG statement has been published pending review by the Stoma Formulary Task and Finish Group.</p> | <p>ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group: 17 July 2025, noted by MOP group.</p> |
| Mirikizumab injection for Crohn's disease | <p>For noting.</p> <p>A grey RAG designation has been assigned pending publication of the NICE TA.</p> | <p>ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group: 17 July 2025, noted by MOP group.</p> |
| Guselkumab injection for Crohn's disease | <p>For noting.</p> <p>A grey RAG designation has been assigned pending publication of the NICE TA.</p> | <p>ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group: 17 July 2025, noted by MOP group.</p> |
| Guselkumab injection for ulcerative colitis | <p>For noting.</p> <p>A grey RAG designation has been assigned pending publication of the NICE TA.</p> | <p>ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group: 17 July 2025, noted by MOP group.</p> |
| Nemolizumab injection for atopic dermatitis | <p>For noting.</p> <p>A grey RAG designation has been assigned pending publication of the NICE TA.</p> | <p>ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group: 17 July 2025, noted by MOP group.</p> |
| Nemolizumab injection for prurigo nodularis | <p>For noting.</p> | <p>ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group: 17 July 2025, noted by MOP group.</p> |

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| | A grey RAG designation has been assigned pending publication of the NICE TA. | |
| Ruxolitinib cream for non-segmental vitiligo with facial involvement | For noting. A grey RAG designation has been assigned pending publication of the NICE TA. | ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group: 17 July 2025, noted by MOP group. |

Formulary and guidelines

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| Riboflavin (Vitamin B2) tablets 50mg – amendment to RAG designation and addition of self-care wording RAG designation: DNP RAG proposed for indications other than mitochondria disorder (Red) APG subgroup: 17 June 2025 APG: 04 Jul 2025 | <p>Riboflavin tablets 50mg to remain designated red for mitochondria disorder (secondary RAG designation). Proposal to designate <i>Do Not Prescribe (DNP) for any other indications e.g. migraine, headaches, mental health/depression (primary RAG designation)</i></p> <p>Additional wording in formulary entry: <i>People wishing to take riboflavin for these other indications should purchase from reputable health food shops.</i></p> <p>There is no licensed riboflavin product in the UK and prescribing on FP10 may incur costs of up to £500 per item. Cost savings, based on expenditure in Cheshire and Merseyside ICB in last financial year, would be up to £30,000 annually.</p> | ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group: 17 July 2025, approved by MOP group. |
| Pyridoxine tablets 10mg, 50mg (Vitamin B6) – amendment to RAG designation RAG designation: DNP for off label use | <p>Proposal to add Do Not Prescribe (DNP) designation for pyridoxine tablets 10mg, 50mg for off-label indications e.g. pre-menstrual syndrome (advise self-care OTC purchase) and for alcohol withdrawal (Primary RAG). Off-label use has no evidence base, with most prescribing occurring for these indications.</p> | ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group: 17 July 2025, approved by MOP group. |

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| APG subgroup: 17 June 2025 APG: 04 Jul 2025 | Cost savings, based on expenditure in Cheshire and Merseyside ICB in last financial year would be up to £112,000 annually. | |
| Carvedilol for the primary prevention of variceal bleeding in patients with cirrhosis. RAG designation: Amber initiated. APG subgroup: 17 June 2025 APG: 04 Jul 2025 | <p>Additional indication in formulary for carvedilol for the primary prevention of variceal bleeding in patients with cirrhosis (unlicensed indication), designated as amber initiated. This indication is recognised by the British Society of Gastroenterology (BSG) and listed in the BNF. NICE guidance NG50: Cirrhosis in over 16s: assessment and management (September 2023) recommends the off-label use of carvedilol for the prevention of variceal bleeding. A review of 10 RCT's comparing carvedilol versus traditional, non-selective beta-blockers evaluating both primary and secondary prevention of upper gastrointestinal bleeding in adults with cirrhosis and verified gastroesophageal varices showed that carvedilol was more effective at reducing the hepatic venous pressure gradient.</p> <p>Therapy is started with a low initiation dose and then titrated up to maintenance dose with a pulse check within defined parameters before each titration at 2-3 week intervals by secondary care. After initiation and stabilisation, the specialist team will provide instructions and request that primary care continue prescribing, with processes in place for further dose adjustments or treatment cessation and secondary care support as required.</p> <p>Anticipated that additional drug costs would be minimal and comparable to propranolol and nadolol, the current alternative options.</p> | ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group: 17 July 2025, approved by MOP group. |

Antimicrobials

| Proposal | Notes | Approval |
|--|---|--|
| Cholecystitis (acute) RAG designation: not applicable APG subgroup: 11/06/2025 APG: 04/07/2025 | Previously harmonised recommendation updated following MHRA restriction to the use of fluoroquinolones to recommend referral rather than treatment in line with NICE and local opinion. | ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group: 17 July 2025, approved by MOP group. |
| Sore throat (acute) RAG designation: not applicable APG subgroup: 11/06/2025 APG: 04/07/2025 | Previously harmonised recommendation updated to accommodate the option of a five-day course of phenoxymethylpenicillin in support of the AMS agenda and in line with national PGDs. Aligns with current practice and NICE guidance. | ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group: 17 July 2025, approved by MOP group. |

APG reports

| Title | Notes | Approval |
|---|-------------|---|
| NICE TA adherence checklist May 2025 | For noting. | ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group: 17 July 2025, noted by MOP group. |