**Update on the development of The Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board Netformulary**

Throughout 2024 work has been undertaken to combine the legacy prescribing formularies of Morecambe Bay, Central Lancashire, East Lancashire, West Lancashire, and the Fylde Coast. This work has been undertaken with the support and input of primary and secondary care clinicians from all localities. The aim is to harmonise and consolidate the existing local formularies into a single Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board (LSCICB) prescribing formulary.

Netformulary can be accessed at the following site [Lancashire and South Cumbria Formulary](https://www.lancashireandsouthcumbriaformulary.nhs.uk/default.asp?siteType=Full) or by selecting the formulary tab on the home page of the Lancashire and South Cumbria Medicines Management group (LSCMMG) website located at [Home - Lancashire and South Cumbria Medicines Management Group](https://www.lancsmmg.nhs.uk/). **The content from NetFormulary will go live within the Optimise Rx profile from the week commencing 13th January 2025 to support prescribers at the point of prescribing.**

**The use of NetFormulary is not intended to encourage the switching of historic prescribing where patients are stable and well maintained on their current regime.** Instead NetFormulary should be used to guide prescribers with cost effective evidence-based choices of medication **when initiating a new therapy or undertaking a medication review.**

**Prescribers working within West Lancashire (includes prescribers working within Ormskirk, Skelmersdale and Northern Parishes PCN’s) will now be directed towards the LSCMMG website to access NetFormulary and other resources and guidance to support with prescribing decisions instead of the Pan Mersey website.**

Development of this formulary is still work in progress. Full details of the progress made to date and timescales for completion can be found on the LSCMMG website at the following site [Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB Formulary Development - Lancashire and South Cumbria Medicines Management Group](https://www.lancsmmg.nhs.uk/lancashire-and-south-cumbria-icb-formulary-development/)

Primary and secondary care clinicians based in Lancashire and South Cumbria who would like to be involved in the formulary development process should contact [mlcsu.lscformulary@nhs.net](mailto:mlcsu.medicinesmanagement@nhs.net) with their expression of interest.

**Any general queries about the formulary development process should be directed to**: [mlcsu.lscformulary@nhs.net](mailto:mlcsu.medicinesmanagement@nhs.net). Please mark your email with '**Formulary development**' in the subject line.

The amalgamation of the pre-existing formularies has meant that some harmonisation of the existing RAG rating terminology has been necessary. For clarification on the meaning of the RAG ratings applied to NetFormulary please see the key below:

**Green**

Appropriate for initiation and ongoing prescribing in both primary and secondary care. Generally, little or no routine drug monitoring is required.

**Green restricted**

Appropriate for initiation and ongoing prescribing in both primary and secondary care provided additional criteria specific to the medicine or device are met. Generally, little or no routine drug monitoring is required.

**Red**

Medicine is supplied by the hospital for the duration of the treatment course. Primary care initiation or continuation of treatment is not recommended unless exceptional circumstances such as specialist GP.

**Amber 0**

Suitable for prescribing in primary care following recommendation or initiation by a specialist. Patient may need a regular review, but this would not exceed that required for other medicines routinely prescribed in primary care.

**Amber 1 (with shared care)**

Suitable for prescribing in primary care following recommendation or initiation by a specialist. Patient may need a regular review, but this would not exceed that required for other medicines routinely prescribed in primary care. Full prior agreement about patient’s on-going care must be reached under the shared care agreement.

**Amber 2 (with shared care and enhanced service)**

Initiated by specialist and transferred to primary care following a successful initiation period. Significant monitoring required on an on-going basis. Full prior agreement about patient’s on-going care must be reached under the shared care agreement. Amber Level 2 medicines require significant monitoring for which an enhanced service may be suitable. (Subject to local commissioning agreements).

**DNP (Do Not Prescribe)**

NOT recommended for use by the NHS in Lancashire and South Cumbria. Includes medicines that NICE has not recommended for use and terminated technology appraisals, unless there is a local need.

**Grey**

Medicines which have not yet been reviewed or are under the review process. GPs and specialists are recommended not to prescribe these drugs. This category includes drugs where funding has not yet been agreed.

**Multiple** – Existing RAG rating varies between localities. Whilst ongoing work is undertaken to harmonise RAG ratings refer to local or trust guidance.