

Supplementary figures

Traffic Light Status Information

Status	Description
GREEN	Medicines considered suitable for non-specialist prescribing in primary or secondary care.
AR	Requires specialist assessment to enable patient selection. Amber Recommended medicines must meet criteria: (1) Requires specialist assessment to enable patient selection (2) Following specialist assessment, the medicine is suitable for prescribing in Primary Care.
AI	Amber Initiated. Requires specialist initiation of prescribing. Prescribing to be continued by the specialist until stabilisation of the dose is achieved and the patient has been reviewed. Amber Initiated medicines must meet criteria: (1) Requires specialist assessment to enable patient selection (2) Medicine is suitable for on-going prescribing in Primary Care (3) Requires short to medium term specialist prescribing and monitoring of efficacy or toxicity until the patient's dose and condition is stable
A Ret	Amber Patient Retained. Requires specialist initiation of prescribing. Prescribing to be continued by specialist until stabilisation of the dose is achieved and the patient had been reviewed. Patient remains under the care of specialist (ie not discharged) as occasional specialist input may be required. Amber Patient Retained medicines must meet criteria: (1) Requires specialist assessment to enable patient selection (2) Medicine is suitable for on-going prescribing in Primary Care (3) Requires short to medium term specialist prescribing and monitoring of efficacy or toxicity until the patient's dose and condition is stable (4) May require occasional specialist input indefinitely and therefore the patient should not be discharged from specialist care
AMBER	Medicines recommended or initiated by specialists in primary or secondary care. Non-specialist prescribing in primary care may follow according the RAG criteria. In process of being superseded by Amber Recommended, Amber Initiated and Amber Patient Retained.
PURPLE	Shared Care. Medicines are considered suitable for Primary Care prescribing and/or management, following specialist initiation of therapy, with on-going communication between the Primary Care prescriber and specialist, within the framework of a Shared Care Agreement. Medicines designated as requiring Shared Care require on-going input from both Specialist and Primary Care clinicians and patients should not be discharged from Specialist care. Where prescribing and monitoring are required under shared care, it is implicit that the responsibility for both of these tasks rests with the prescriber. A Shared Care Agreement will always be available for Shared Care medicines and this document will include a Shared Care Agreement pro-forma which will be completed by all involved clinicians. This pro-forma will record agreement to take on defined aspects of care e.g. monitoring and/or on-going prescribing for the individual patients. A policy detailing clinician responsibilities in Shared Care Agreements must be referred to in all cases of Shared Care. All drugs to be included in this category must meet Shared Care criteria 1 to 3: SC1 Requires specialist assessment to enable patient selection and also initiation, stabilisation and review of treatment and the patient's condition. SC2 Prescribing and/or management of the drug in Primary Care with specialist support and input, within the framework of the Shared Care Agreement is safe and convenient and that there is an appropriate mechanism for individual patient access in Primary Care. SC3 Requires specific long-term monitoring (blood test or other measurement) for adverse effects and / or efficacy of the drug to be completed in Primary Care, and requires on-going specialist support for the dose changes or management of adverse effects. Monitoring is required on a regular basis (typically four times a year). Implicit in any shared care agreement is the understanding that participation is at the discretion of the Primary Care prescriber subject to their clinical confidence.
RED	Primary care prescribing of these medicines is NOT recommended. These treatments should be prescribed only by a specialist clinician. The specialist clinician is commonly situated in a hospital but may be within a locally commissioned consultant/GP specialist-led service situated in primary care.
BLACK	Not recommended for use. Deviation from the policy may be considered on an individual basis where exceptional circumstances exist.
GREY	Not recommended for use at this time. Deviation from the policy may be considered on an individual basis where exceptional circumstances exist. Further guidance will be issued when more information or evidence is made available.

Supplementary figure 1: BNF Traffic Light Status Information as per the Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee (APC), figure taken from the Pan Mersey Formulary [5].

Drug name	BNF unique identifier
Aciclovir	1103030C0
Acitretin	1305020A0
Adrenaline (EPIPEN®)	0304030C0
Amlodipine	0206020A0
Amoxicillin	0501013B0
Amoxicillin	0501013B0
Azathioprine	0802010G0
Azathioprine	0802010G0

Azathioprine	0802010G0
Azathioprine	0802010G0
Azathioprine	0802010G0
Azathioprine	0802010G0
Balneum Plus Cream	1302010U0
Balneum Plus Cream	1302010U0
Benzydamine spray (Difflam)	1203010 E0
Betamethasone valerate (Betvonate)	1304000F0
Betamethasone valerate (Betvonate)	1304000F0
Bio-Kult	0913531A0
Bisacodyl	0106020C0
Budesonide	0105020A0
Cetirizine	0304010I0
Cetirizine	0304010I0
Cetirizine	0304010I0
Chloramphenicol	1103010C0
Chlorphenamine	0304010G0
Co-amoxiclav	0501013K0
Colecalciferol	0906040G0
Colecalciferol	0906040G0
Colecalciferol	0906040G0
Colecalciferol	0906040G0
Colecalciferol	0906040G0
Cyclopentolate eye drops	1105000E0
Cyclopentolate eye drops	1105000E0
Dermol 600	130201100
Dermol Cream	130201000
Dermol Cream	130201000
Dermol Cream	130201000
Dermol Cream	130201000
Desloratadine	0304010AB
Desloratadine	0304010AB
Desogestrel	0703021Q0
Dexamethasone eye drops	1104010I0
Diclofenac	1001010C0
Doublebase Dayleve	1302011M0
Doublebase Shower	1302011M0
Enalapril	0205051I0
Epoetin beta	0901030E0
Esomeprazole	0103050E0
Estriol	0604011M0
Fifty:50 Liquid Paraffin Ointment	130201000
Fluticasone inhaler	0302000N0

Folic acid	0901020G0
Fusidic acid/betamethasone valerate (Fucibet®)	1310012F0
Glucagon	0601040H0
Glycerine suppositories	0106020L0
Hydrocortisone	0105020C0
Hydrocortisone	1304000V0
Hydrocortisone	1304000V0
Hydromol Ointment	1302010U0
Hydromol Ointment	1302010U0
Hydromol Bath & Shower Emollient	130201100
Hyoscine butylbromide	0102000N0
Ibuprofen	1001010AP
Lactulose	0106040G0
Lactulose	0106040G0
Levothyroxine	0602010V0
Losartan	0205052N0
Lymecycline	0501030L0
Medroxyprogesterone	0803020H0
Mefenamic acid	1001010N0
Melatonin	0401010AD
Menadiol	0906060L0
Mesalazine	0105010B0
Methotrexate	0801030P0
Mirabegron	0704020AE
Mirabegron	0704020AE
Mirabegron	0704020AE
Mometasone	1202010U0
Mometasone	1202010U0
Movicol	0106040M0
Movicol	0106040M0
Movicol	0106040M0
Movicol	0106040M0
Movicol	0106040M0
Mupirocin ointment	1202030R0
Naproxen	1001010P0
Nystatin	0502030B0
Omeprazole	0103050P0
Omeprazole	0103050P0
Ondansetron	0406000S0
Ondansetron	0406000S0
Pancreatin (CREON®)	0109040N0
Phosphate enema	0106050U0
Phosphate enema	0106050U0

Prednisolone acetate (Pred Forte)	1104010R0
Prednisolone acetate (Pred Forte)	1104010R0
Propranolol	0204000R0
Propranolol	0204000R0
Radio-opaque capsules	1803000A0
Radio-opaque capsules	1803000A0
Rifaximin	0501070X0
Rifaximin	0501070X0
Salbutamol	0301011R0
Salbutamol	0301011R0
Senna	0106020M0
Senna	0106020M0
Senna	0106020M0
Senna	0106020M0
Sodium chloride nasal spray	1202020L0
Sodium hyaluronate 0.2% (HYLO-Forte®)	110801000
Sodium picosulfate (PICOLAX®)	0106050S0
Sodium picosulfate (PICOLAX®)	0106050S0
Sodium picosulfate (PICOLAX®)	0106050S0
Somatropin (Norditropin®)	0605010S0
Sumatriptan	0407041T0
Tacrolimus ointment	1305030C0
Tacrolimus ointment	1305030C0
Tacrolimus ointment	1305030C0
Tacrolimus ointment	1305030C0
Tolterodine	0704020N0
Tranexamic acid	0211000P0
Tranexamic acid	0211000P0
Trimethoprim	0501080W0
Trimovate cream	1304000H0

Supplementary figure 2: A list of all 124 uncollected prescription items and their unique BNF identification code.