

# Area Prescribing Group report

**Date:** Friday 02 August **Quorate:** Yes

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

Document links provided for any APG recommendations are temporarily hosted on the legacy Pan Mersey APC website as a pragmatic solution until such time as a Cheshire and Merseyside APG website is available. The [legacy Cheshire formulary](#) will also be updated to reflect these changes.

CMAPG governance documents are now hosted on the new [Prescribing](#) section of the NHS Cheshire and Merseyside website, which is currently being developed

## New medicines NICE TAs

Proposal	Notes	Approval
<p><a href="#">Tenecteplase for treating acute ischaemic stroke</a></p> <p><b>RAG designation:</b> Red</p> <p><b>APG subgroup:</b> 12 Jul 2024</p> <p><b>APG:</b> 02 Aug 2024</p>	<p><b>Date of NICE TA publication:</b> 24 Jul 2024</p> <p><b>Approval for implementation:</b> 30 days</p> <p><b>Deadline for implementation:</b> 23 Aug 2024</p> <p>Red RAG rating to be assigned in formulary, in line with NICE <a href="#">TA990</a>. In-tariff drug for hospital use only.</p> <p>Tenecteplase is an alternative to alteplase for the thrombolytic treatment of an acute ischaemic stroke in adults, and a cost comparison by NICE suggests it costs less than alteplase.</p>	<p><b>ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group:</b> 15 August 2024, approved by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Group.</p>

Proposal	Notes	Approval
<p><a href="#">Lebrikizumab for treating moderate to severe atopic dermatitis in people 12 years and over</a></p> <p><b>RAG designation:</b> Red</p> <p><b>APG subgroup:</b> 12 Jul 2024</p> <p><b>APG:</b> 02 Aug 2024</p>	<p><b>Date of NICE TA publication:</b> 10 Jul 2024</p> <p><b>Approval for implementation:</b> 90 days</p> <p><b>Deadline for implementation:</b> 04 Oct 2024</p> <p>Red RAG rating to be assigned in formulary, in line with NICE <a href="#">TA986</a>. Tariff-excluded high cost drug.</p> <p>Lebrikizumab is another treatment option for atopic dermatitis and is available at a similar cost to existing treatment options. Therefore, it is expected to be cost-neutral. It is ICB-commissioned in adults and NHSE-commissioned in adolescents.</p> <p>Lebrikizumab is an IL-13 inhibitor, and is associated with ocular side effects. There is an <a href="#">MHRA warning for ocular adverse reactions with dupilumab</a>, which is an IL-4 and IL-13 inhibitor. This has already been raised with the safety subgroup Chair in light of previous APG discussions over specialist drugs where patients are likely to present to primary care with symptoms. The APG requested that the Safety subgroup should develop some wording to include in the lebrikizumab formulary entry about the risk of ocular side effects. Concerns were also raised at APG that the MHRA warning is not specific to lebrikizumab so it may not be obvious to clinicians if a patient presented with ocular symptoms in primary care. Patients may also present to other providers, such as community pharmacy or ophthalmology. Therefore, strong patient education is crucial and the APG proposed that the specialist should write to the GP when lebrikizumab is started.</p> <p>The Legacy Cheshire High Cost Drugs for Atopic Dermatitis pathway will be reviewed and harmonised. A</p>	<p><b>ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group:</b> 15 August 2024, approved by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Group.</p>

Proposal	Notes	Approval
	Blueteq form will be developed for implementation across Cheshire.	

## Formulary and guidelines

Proposal	Notes	Approval
<p><a href="#">Levetiracetam – any indication.</a></p> <p><b>RAG designation:</b> Amber recommended</p> <p><b>APG subgroup:</b> 16 Jul 2024</p> <p><b>APG:</b> 02 Aug 2024</p>	<p>Removal of the statement that patients who are prescribed Keppra® brand may remain on Keppra® brand indefinitely, from the formulary entry for levetiracetam</p> <p>MHRA determined that levetiracetam was risk category 3 - for these drugs, it is usually unnecessary to ensure that patients are maintained on a specific manufacturer's product unless there are specific reasons such as patient anxiety and risk of confusion or dosing errors.</p> <p>ICB Medicines management colleagues are currently working on a QIPP cost-saving project with specialist input to safely switch prescribing from Keppra® to generic levetiracetam where the patients are suitable to switch, therefore amending the wording in the formulary to reflect that existing patients may be switched safely to the generic would prevent conflict with the project.</p>	<p><b>ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group:</b> 15 August 2024, approved by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Group.</p>
<p><a href="#">Blood glucose and ketone meters, testing strips and lancets.</a></p> <p><b>RAG designation:</b> Green</p> <p><b>APG subgroup:</b> 16 Jul 2024</p> <p><b>APG:</b> 02 Aug 2024</p>	<p>Adoption of NHS England Commissioning recommendations on choice of blood glucose and ketone meters, testing strips and lancets into the formulary to replace existing recommendations.</p> <p>Previous guidance required updating, and adoption of NHSE commissioning recommendations provides validated guidance and obviates the need for any local</p>	<p><b>ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group:</b> 15 August 2024, approved by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Group.</p>

Proposal	Notes	Approval
	guidance. The intent of the national assessment process was to support the delivery of the NHS Long-Term Plan for diabetes management through the following key objectives: a. Equitable access to the same products for all eligible people, no matter where they live; b. Minimum quality standards established in a fair and transparent way to better address the needs of all people living with diabetes; c. Prescribing practices aligned across primary and secondary care; and d. Making best use of NHS Resources, whilst ensuring that the price paid is commensurate to the quality offered.	

## APG reports

Title	Notes	Approval
<a href="#">NICE TA adherence checklist</a> June 2024	For noting.	<b>ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group:</b> 15 August 2024, noted by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Group.

## Any other business

Proposal	Notes	Approval
Proton pump inhibitors - any indication. <b>RAG designation:</b> Green <b>APG subgroup:</b> n/a <b>APG:</b> 02 Aug 2024	For noting. A PPI <a href="#">patient information leaflet</a> has been developed by the ICB, outside of the APG process, to support review work. It has been approved by the ICB Clinical Effectiveness Group (CEG) and has already been uploaded to the ICB website.	<b>ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group:</b> 15 August 2024, noted by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Group.

Proposal	Notes	Approval
	APG supported the request for addition of a link in the formulary to signpost to the leaflet.	