

CPCS, Red drugs and Prescribing guidelines

CPCS pharmacies have been sent an e-mail from NHS England with a link to the local prescribing guidelines. You may have wondered why!

This was for information, so you are aware which drugs are RED and only to be prescribed by a specialist. It is very unlikely that you would receive a CPCS referral for a RED drug.

However, if you do have a referral for any drug not routinely stocked in Community Pharmacy, then please follow the CPCS specification and contact GP Out of Hours. We would recommend having a conversation with a clinician at GP Out of Hours to discuss the risks of this patient going without medication and the options available. GP Out of Hours have contacts for the hospital, including Hospital Out of hours pharmacist, so can hopefully advise on the best course of action for the patient. Do not refer the patient to A & E.

The link to the prescribing guidelines for Hull and East Riding Hospitals (HERPC) is:-

<https://www.hey.nhs.uk/herpc/prescribing-guidelines/> - Red and Amber lists available on website.

For North Lincolnshire / North East Lincolnshire

<https://www.northernlincolnshireapc.nhs.uk/> Drugs are highlighted as Red or Amber within medicine formulary.

Knowing where to access these local guidelines can be really useful for clinically checking prescriptions where the treatment has been initiated by a consultant and also for NMS, MURs and Refer to pharmacy referrals.

Red List of Drugs

Drugs only to be prescribed by a specialist. Those drugs:

- Requiring long-term specialist monitoring of efficacy
- Requiring long-term specialist monitoring of toxicity (either because of difficulty in recognising side effects or high cost/availability of investigations to identify toxicity)
- Designated as 'hospital only' by product licence, by DOH or by the company.
- That are new or a new indication for an existing drug that needs evaluation to be undertaken to establish the place in therapy, with a recommendation that a formal review process be undertaken
- That are hospital initiated unlicensed or clinical trial materials
- That are not licensed for any indication in the UK

Amber List of Drugs

Drugs requiring initiation by a specialist, but with the potential to transfer to primary care, within written and agreed shared care frameworks, and according to the agreed process for transfer of care. Transfer to primary care is expected to be the normal practice. Those drugs:

- Requiring short or medium term specialist monitoring of efficacy
- Requiring short or medium term specialist monitoring of toxicity
- Requiring specialist assessment to enable patient selection