

Area Prescribing Group report

Date: Friday 05 Jul 2024 **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>Atogepant for preventing migraine</p> <p>RAG designation: Amber retained (previously Grey)</p> <p>APG subgroup: 14 Jun 2024</p> <p>APG: 05 Jul 2024</p>	<p>Date of NICE TA publication: 15 May 2024</p> <p>Approval for implementation: 90 days</p> <p>Deadline for implementation: 13 August 2024</p> <p>Amber retained RAG rating to be assigned in formulary, in line with NICE TA973.</p> <p>Atogepant is a further, oral treatment option for prevention of migraine. It can be used in both episodic and chronic migraine, whereas rimegepant is only for use in prevention of episodic migraine. Other injectable CGRP receptor antagonists can be used in both episodic and chronic migraine.</p>	<p>ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group: 18 July 2024, approved by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Group.</p>

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	<p>Atogepant is a high cost tariff-excluded drug, however, there is no commercial arrangement/PAS in place and the list price applies to both secondary and primary care. Uptake of atogepant would displace other CGRP receptor antagonists, and the overall cost of treatment for this patient group will be similar. There may be resource benefits for the NHS due to reduced clinic time, but there would be an increase in primary care spend.</p> <p>There is currently a RAG change request for rimegepant for preventing migraine, from amber retained RAG to amber initiated, which is progressing through the APG process. Amber retained was originally assigned for rimegepant for migraine prevention on the basis that the Walton Centre had advised that the specialist undertakes the 12 month review. However, the subgroup have since been informed this is not current practice, and concerns have been received from specialists about capacity to retain and review patients. The NMSG felt that atogepant met the criteria for amber initiated as the medicine required short to medium term specialist prescribing and monitoring of efficacy but that ongoing prescribing and review could be managed in primary care with appropriate guidance and support.</p> <p>Concerns were expressed at APG about the proposed amber initiated RAG. The APG felt that an amber initiated RAG could not be implemented until the Cheshire and Merseyside headache pathway is ready, and having two different RAG ratings for rimegepant and atogepant for preventing migraine would leave the organisation open to challenge. It was agreed that an amber retained RAG should be assigned for now, with a</p>	

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	view to reconsider the RAG ratings for rimegepant and atogepant when the headache pathway is ready.	

Formulary and guidelines

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<p>Primary care prescribed glucose monitoring devices.</p> <p>RAG designation: Green for adults</p> <p>APG subgroup: 18 Jun 2024</p> <p>APG: 05 Jul 2024</p>	<p>Proposed RAG changed from Amber recommended to Green for adults only. To remain Amber recommended for children. Additional supporting wording to be added to the formulary clarifying: 'Practices can still refer the patient to a specialist when they feel that this is clinically appropriate.'</p> <p>Updated decision aids for type 1 and Type 2 diabetes included for information. Continuous glucose monitoring</p>	<p>ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group: 18 July 2024, approved by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Group.</p>
<p>Hydrocortisone liquid 5mg/5ml formulary amendment.</p> <p>RAG designation: Amber initiated for children. Green for adults in Merseyside</p> <p>APG subgroup: 18 Jun 2024</p> <p>APG: 05 Jul 2024</p>	<p>A proposal for the new licensed formulation to replace the currently listed unlicensed special because the supply of the latter will cease now a licensed formulation is available. This is technically a minor formulary amendment but there is a significant price increase.</p> <p>Currently in Merseyside approximately 60 patients are receiving the unlicensed hydrocortisone liquid via Alder Hey's Specials Scheme – all these patients will be switching to the licensed preparation. Countess of Chester NHSFT has supplied 10 paediatric patients in previous 12 months. Just 15 items were prescribed in primary care across Cheshire and Merseyside in 2023/24, but other trusts may also be prescribing the liquid. Based on a dose of 5mg/5ml three times daily, the approximate annual cost increase for 70 patients is £409,000. When added to the formulary, use of 2.5mg</p>	<p>ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group: 18 July 2024, clinically supported by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Group.</p> <p>19 July 2024 Approved by ICB Executive Medical Director.</p>

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	or 5mg tablets would reduce this cost, where it is appropriate to switch patients, as the tablets are less expensive than both the new licensed liquid and the unlicensed special liquid.	
Alprostadil 40 micrograms/ml formulary amendment. RAG designation: Green for adults APG subgroup: 18 Jun 2024 APG: 05 Jul 2024	Caverject® 40 microgram/ml powder and solvent has been discontinued by the manufacturer and will be removed from the formulary. It will be replaced by Viridal Duo® 40 microgram/ml powder and solvent, which is slightly cheaper and is equivalent.	ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group: 18 July 2024, approved by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Group.

Antimicrobials

Proposal	Notes	Approval
Primary care antimicrobial prescribing updates for adults: acne vulgaris. RAG designation: not applicable. APG subgroup: 12 Jun 2024 APG: 05 Jul 2024	Identified for early harmonisation because of differences between Cheshire and Merseyside legacy recommendations.	ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group: 18 July 2024, approved by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Group.

APG reports

Title	Notes	Approval
NICE TA adherence checklist May 2024	For noting.	ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group: 20 June 2024, noted by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Group.