

Prescribing Initiatives: Cost Efficiencies from 1st April 2024

Cost Efficiency Focus	Actions for prescribers or those making prescribing recommendations
<p>Lidocaine 5% plasters NHSGGC spent approximately £7 million on Lidocaine plasters in 2023, spend is expected to grow by £1.8 million (25%) in 2024.</p> <p>Focus on reducing inappropriate prescribing of Lidocaine 5% plasters.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only initiate lidocaine plasters for their licensed indication (post-herpetic neuralgia) or in exceptional circumstances in arrangement with a multi-disciplinary team (eg: palliative care) • De-prescribe in all patients where possible • Assess response every 4 weeks and discontinue treatment if no response • Trial a plaster-free period where the patient has responded to treatment and pain is completely alleviated after 7 days of plaster use
<p>Direct oral anticoagulants (DOAC) Apixaban is now the preferred DOAC in NHSGGC for all indications.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All patients newly diagnosed with atrial fibrillation (AF) who meet the criteria for requiring anticoagulation should be initiated on apixaban unless there are contraindications • Patients with a diagnosis of AF and currently prescribed edoxaban should be reviewed with a view to switching to apixaban if appropriate
<p>DPP4 inhibitors Sitagliptin is the preferred DPP4 inhibitor in NHSGGC.</p> <p>Focus on reviewing prescribing of all DPP4 inhibitors to ensure treatment is effective.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All new patients requiring a DPP4 inhibitor should be prescribed sitagliptin unless there are contraindications • Review response at 6 months and stop treatment if HbA1c has fallen by less than 5.5mmol/mol (0.5%) • Review all patients prescribed other DPP4 inhibitors with a view to either stopping treatment if it has been ineffective or switching to sitagliptin if appropriate
<p>Beclometasone/formoterol metered dose inhaler (MDI) Luforbec® is the preferred brand of beclometasone/formoterol MDI in NHSGGC.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescribe Luforbec® when initiating beclometasone/formoterol MDI • Consider switching patients currently prescribed Fostair® MDI to Luforbec® MDI • Review inhaler technique to ensure the patient can use the device
<p>Tiotropium inhaler Tiogiva® is the preferred brand of tiotropium inhaler in NHSGGC.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescribe Tiogiva® when initiating tiotropium • Consider switching patients prescribed other brands of tiotropium inhaler to Tiogiva® • Review inhaler technique to ensure the patient can use the device