
1. Purpose of Policy

This document outlines the policy principles related to the prescribing of licensed medicines that are either not included in the NHSGGC Medicines Formularies (the Formulary) or are being used for licensed indications outwith the restrictions defined within the Formulary. The intention is to ensure a fair and consistent approach for all patients referred to NHSGGC clinicians for treatment.

2. Scope

- This policy is applicable to all directly provided NHSGGC services, including the Directorates within the Acute Service Division and Partnerships and services provided by independent contractors within primary care.
- It is intended to be relevant to all patients. There is not a different or separate process for non-NHSGGC residents, whether referred for treatment from a neighbouring NHS Board area or treated by an NHSGGC prescriber in the environment of the patient's home Health Board.
- This policy is applicable for all licensed medicines that are being used for indications covered within the relevant marketing authorisation (licence) that are outwith the Formulary. The use of unlicensed medicines, and for indications outside of marketing authorisation (off-label prescribing), are covered by a separate unlicensed medicines policy.

3. Background

A robust Formulary management system is well established in NHSGGC as the focus for good prescribing practice. An evidence-based review process is conducted at national and local level to determine prescribing recommendations. Medicines successfully navigating this process are included in the Formulary and are intended to cover the vast majority of patient requirements, providing clinicians with a range of cost-effective prescribing options. Where circumstances dictate that a medicine should only be prescribed on a limited basis, the Formulary will specify these restrictions.

4. Policy Statement

Prescribing from the Formulary is consistent with good clinical practice. The need for the prescribing of medicines outwith the Formulary (non-Formulary prescribing) is recognised, but it is expected that:

- Clinical guidelines/protocols will exclude non-Formulary medicines.
- Non-Formulary status will apply to new medicines until accepted for use by the Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) and considered for Formulary inclusion by either the Area Drug and Therapeutics Committee (ADTC) or if applicable the Paediatric Drug and Therapeutics Committee (Paed DTC).
- Non-Formulary medicines, including those that are awaiting evaluation by the SMC or those that are not recommended for use by the SMC, will not be routinely available and prescribing will follow existing national and local processes to access such medicines e.g. IPTR or PACS2 application.