



FormularySubgroup

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



What is the Formulary Subgroup?

It is a sub-group of the Greater Manchester Medicines Management Group (GMMMGM).

The development of a Joint Formulary was proposed by GMMMGM in response to the Greater Manchester Medicines Management QIPP challenge put forward by GM Chief Executives and Directors of Commissioning & Finance in 2010.

The GM formulary, either in its entirety or in part, supersedes local formularies.

The formulary is applicable to new initiations and should meet the needs of the majority of **adult** patients. There will be instances where prescribing outside of the formulary will be necessary and appropriate. The justification for prescribing non-formulary drugs should be documented.

What is the purpose of the Greater Manchester Joint Formulary?

The formulary is a joint venture between primary and secondary care that:

- ensures that patients receive seamless care across the primary-secondary care interface
- reduces variations in prescribing practice
- optimises use of the most cost-effective drug choice across primary and secondary care
- reduces the need for switching programmes
- reduces prescribing errors

What is the structure of the formulary?

Thirteen chapters are available. The chapters mirror the format of the BNF and the formulary is not intended as a clinical guideline.

How are the drugs chosen?

The Formulary subgroup uses decision making criteria that can be found on the website:

http://gmmgm.nhs.uk/html/form_decision_making_criteria.php

The formulary highlights first choice drug based on clinical efficacy, adverse effects, patient acceptability and cost effectiveness, together with alternatives (ideally no more than two).

All medicines recommended for use in NICE Technology appraisals are included within the Greater Manchester Formulary.

Links to GMMMGM New Therapies recommendations, Interface RAG status, MHRA Drug Safety Updates are included when appropriate.

What is the Do Not Prescribe (DNP) list and Grey list?

The Formulary subgroup is responsible for maintaining the DNP and Grey list.

The DNP list includes drugs that are deemed not suitable for prescribing for adults and children in primary or secondary care. These decisions are made on the basis of safety, efficacy and cost-effectiveness.

Drugs on the DNP list should not be prescribed or recommended unless exceptional circumstances are demonstrated.

The Grey list includes medicines that are not suitable for routine prescribing but may be suitable for a defined patient population.

Why only first choice and a couple of alternatives?

To ensure greater familiarity with a limited range of drugs thus reducing prescribing errors. This approach also promotes seamless prescribing across the primary and secondary care interface.

It's important to remember that the formulary is not intended to cover every eventuality or speciality and that the drugs included will be sufficient to meet the needs of the vast majority of patients.

Who are the members of the Formulary subgroup?

The group has medical and pharmacist representation from Greater Manchester Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and acute trusts.

Support is provided by the Wolfson Unit in Newcastle and the Greater Manchester Shared Service (part of North West CSU).

Clinical specialists may also attend to present on a particular issue or be invited should specialist advice be warranted.

How is their work communicated?

Final chapters are available on the GMMMG website:

http://gmmmg.nhs.uk/html/formulary_bnf_chapters.html

All group meeting agenda and minutes are also posted online.

All recommendations are officially reported at GMMMG before being escalated to the CCG's via the Association Governance Group.

All CCG medicines optimisation leads and hospital chief pharmacists are emailed updates directly. It is their responsibility to disseminate the information to relevant clinicians within their own organisations.

When do they meet?

Typically, once every month.

How can I make a comment or apply for a drug to be considered for inclusion in the formulary?

All finalised chapters will continue to be subject to an on-going review process and will be updated on a regular basis via the website. If you have any requests for changes or removals please go to the [Formulary Requests section](#).

New drug applications will only be accepted from healthcare professionals within Greater Manchester.

When a chapter is being reviewed, comments will be able to be submitted via the website during the consultation period.

Will the formulary subgroup also look at newly marketed drugs?

The GMMMG New Therapies Subgroup (NTS) will still be evaluating any new drugs and making recommendations on use across GM. When a drug is considered by NTS then a recommendation will be made regarding inclusion within the formulary or addition to the Do Not Prescribe list.

Are the recommendations in the joint formulary binding?

No, but adherence to the formulary is a strong recommendation from GMMMG who work under the direction of the GM CCGs Chief Operating Officers. Clear, clinical justification should be given as to why a non-formulary drug has been selected for an individual patient.

How can I get involved?

There are many ways in which you can get involved. You can help to disseminate chapters within your organisation or audit existing practices against the recommendations.

You may wish to make a submission for the group to consider inclusion of a particular therapy over another drug in which case you may be asked to present your argument to the group. (N.B. applications from the pharmaceutical industry will not be accepted)

The group is always happy to receive applications for membership, to register your interest and for further information on the group please contact the group secretary via nyrdtc.rxsupp@nuth.nhs.uk

How can I find out more about the Joint Formulary?

Please contact your local representative on the group or if your area doesn't have a representative then please contact the chair or secretary of the subgroup. Further information can be found in the [GMMMG Formulary subgroup terms of reference](#).