

Area Prescribing Group report

Date: Friday 06 October 2023 **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 other

Drug and indication	RAG	Notes	ICB approval
OSPEMIFENE tablets (Senshio®) for vulvar and vaginal atrophy in post-menopausal women	Grey	Grey statement for noting. An in-year application was received prior to the move towards the single Cheshire and Merseyside APG. Progress was paused during the interim arrangements, but the NMSG are now able to progress this review.	Approved by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group 19/10/2023
Bimekizumab solution for injection (Bimzelx®▼) for axial spondyloarthritis	Grey	For noting. A grey RAG has been assigned pending publication of the NICE TA.	Approved by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group 19/10/2023

Bimekizumab solution for injection (Bimzelx®▼) for psoriatic arthritis	Grey	For noting. A grey RAG has been assigned pending publication of the NICE TA.	Approved by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group 19/10/2023
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Formulary and guidelines

Drug and indication	RAG	Notes	ICB approval
Inflammatory bowel disease in adults - high cost drugs pathway	Red	<p>This pathway has harmonised the legacy Cheshire and Merseyside documents. This was prompted by the recently published NICE TAs for ulcerative colitis and Crohn’s disease, but the content was also fully reviewed. Advice stating that antibody testing in Crohn’s disease should not be routinely carried out has been removed following an update to the BSG guidelines for IBD in 2021 which states this can be helpful in guiding treatment choice.</p> <p>Suggestions in the stakeholder feedback were adopted and the rest of the feedback was in agreement with the new document.</p> <p>The costs of implementing the additional NICE TAs have already been considered previously, when they were approved by the ICB.</p> <p>The decision support summary did not identify any issues or significant additional costs. APG members discussed ways to support the responses in the Ethics section and it was agreed that as the pathways follow NICE, this would already have been considered fully as part of the NICE TA process and would not be duplicated by the APG process. The only way to assess equity of access properly for this pathway would be at the point of service provision.</p> <p>Members agreed to recommend this pathway is approved but recognised that this is a new process and, when thinking is more mature, the issues around equity and impact assessment can be better considered and addressed.</p>	Approved by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group 19/10/2023

APG governance documents

Drug and indication	RAG	Notes	ICB approval
CMAPG terms of reference	Not applicable	Routine review as part of the planned CMAPG 6-month review. Updated to reflect minor agreed changes to ways of working and to provide clarification.	Approved by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group 19/10/2023
CMAPG policy	Not applicable	Routine review as part of the planned CMAPG 6-month review. Updated to reflect minor agreed changes to ways of working, organisational changes, and to provide clarification. APG organogram incorporated as appendix 2.	Approved by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group 19/10/2023
Subgroup terms of reference: new medicines tor formulary and guidelines tor interface prescribing tor safety tor antimicrobial guide tor	Not applicable	Routine review as part of the planned CMAPG 6-month review; Organisation updated to Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. quoracy amended from "...five from acute trusts plus relevant specialist trust/s..." to "...five from provider trusts including relevant specialist trusts...". APG declined the initial proposal that subgroup decision making is by a simple majority and requested decision making be specified as "...a majority of two thirds of attending members at quorate meetings. The decision support summary will be used to capture the range of views expressed, which will be reported to APG."	Approved by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group 19/10/2023

APG reports

Drug and indication	Date	Notes	ICB approval
NICE TA formulary adherence	August 2023	For noting	Noted by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy (MOP) Group 19/10/2023