

RED LIST DECISION AID

The General Medical Council Good Medical Practice states ‘prescribe drugs or treatment, including repeat prescriptions, only when you have adequate knowledge of the patient’s health, and are satisfied that the drugs or treatment serve the patient’s needs. It also says provide effective treatments based on the best available evidence’. By prescribing a medication a GP is taking clinical responsibility.

WHAT IS THE RED LIST?

The Red list contains medicines which have been discussed at the Medicines Optimisation Programme Board/ Stakeholders/ Locality and it has been agreed are not normally recommended for prescribing in primary care

- ❖ Medicines may be low priority, because they are not the most clinically or cost effective or for which there are safer alternatives and are **NOT RECOMMENDED ON THE WECCG FORMULARY**
- ❖ 'Specialist / Hospital Only' medicines should only be prescribed in secondary care by or under the supervision of a specialist and will need to be prescribed on an on-going basis by the initiating provider.

Most GPs should not normally be asked or agree to prescribe these medicines. This is because these treatments require specialist knowledge, monitoring or dose adjustment or they may be used for conditions which GPs rarely encounter.

- ❖ Some medicines may be both hospital only (**RED List**) and shared care (**YELLOW List**) depending on the condition they are used to treat.
- ❖ Medicines listed by NHS England as commissioned exclusively from Secondary and Tertiary Care are automatically included in the list
- ❖ Others may be on the hospital only list as they are part of a package of treatment provided by specialists in secondary or tertiary care
- ❖ Intravenous fluids and anaesthetic agents are all assigned hospital-only classification by default, and are not included on the list.

YOU RECEIVE A REQUEST TO PRESCRIBE A MEDICINE ON THE RED LIST

Do you have the correct skills, support and information to prescribe?

GMC Guidance

GMC Prescribing guidance paragraphs 41-43: http://www.gmc-uk.org/guidance/ethical_guidance/14321.asp

- If you share responsibility for a patient’s care with a colleague, you must be competent to exercise your share of clinical responsibility. You should:
 - a. keep yourself informed about the medicines that are prescribed for the patient
 - b. be able to recognise serious and frequently occurring adverse side effects
 - c. make sure appropriate clinical monitoring arrangements are in place and that the patient and healthcare professionals involved understand them
 - d. keep up to date with relevant guidance on the use of the medicines and on the management of the patient’s condition.
- In proposing a shared care arrangement, specialists may advise the patient’s general practitioner which medicine to prescribe. If you are recommending a new, or rarely prescribed, medicine, you should specify the dosage and means of administration, and agree a protocol for treatment. You should explain the use of unlicensed medicines, and departures from authoritative guidance or recommended treatments and provide both the general practitioner and the patient with sufficient information to permit the safe management of the patient’s condition.
- If you are uncertain about your competence to take responsibility for the patient’s continuing care, you should seek further information or advice from the clinician with whom the patient’s care is shared or from another experienced colleague. If you are still not satisfied, you should explain this to the other clinician and to the patient, and make appropriate arrangements for their continuing care.

DECISION

ASSESS THE RELEVANT INFORMATION - to make a clinical prescribing decision using the BNF, SPC, information supplied by the specialist, request further information from them if needed

PRESCRIBE

DOCUMENT YOUR DECISION IN THE PATIENT JOURNAL . INFORM THE PATIENT & AGREE THE OUTCOME FOR ONGOING TREATMENT

NOT HAPPY TO PRESCRIBE

ENTER INTO SHARED CARE AGREEMENT: examples on website [Shared Care Letter - West Essex CCG](#)

NOTE: IF YOU ARE ALREADY PRESCRIBING A RED LISTED MEDICATION YOU MUST HAVE/OBTAIN THE NECESSARY INFORMATION TO CONTINUE TO PRESCRIBE SAFELY

REFER BACK TO SPECIALIST WITH REASONING

REPORT TO QUALITY INBOX weccg.quality@nhs.net AND REPORT TO WECCG weccg.medicinesoptimisationteam@nhs.net