

**Oxford Health Drugs & Therapeutics Group (DTG)  
Bullet point summary July 2019**

**POLICIES**

**Rapid tranquilisation policy**

The policy for [Rapid Tranquillisation in Adults, Older Adults and Children and Adolescents \(CP04\)](#) has recently been updated and is now available in the clinical policy section of the Trust's intranet.

**Non-Medical Prescribing (NMP)**

The [NMP Policy \(MM08\)](#) has been updated and is available on the Trust intranet within the policy section on Medicines Management.

**Intravenous lorazepam for catatonia**

A new protocol (MM12) has been published on the intranet for the [administration of intravenous lorazepam to treat catatonia](#). This procedure is carried out at the Whiteleaf ECT suite and the protocol includes details about how to refer patients and what assessments need to have been carried out by the referring Doctor.

**PRESCRIBING and MONITORING GUIDELINES**

**Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms in Dementia (BPSD)**

Oxford Health's [guideline for the management of BPSD](#) has been fully revised and is now available on the formulary.

**Physical health monitoring for antipsychotics**

Guidelines for the [monitoring of patients treated with antipsychotics](#) has recently been approved for use across Oxfordshire. The guideline is very similar to the previously approved guidance made available in Buckinghamshire. Both guidelines are linked to from the homepage of our formulary.

**High Dose Antipsychotic Therapy (HDAT) Monitoring**

A reminder that the [HDAT guideline](#) is accessible via the Trust's formulary. The monitoring form has recently undergone a minor update to improve its usability and some work is underway to help record information more consistently in Carenotes.

**SHARED CARE PROTOCOLS AND PATHWAYS**

**Dementia – Oxfordshire's primary care pathway**

A recent update to the [pathway for treating patients with dementia](#) was made available – this can be accessed from our own formulary or directly at the CCG's website.

**Lithium**

The updated [Buckinghamshire lithium shared care protocol](#) is available via Oxford Health's formulary or directly at the Buckinghamshire formulary website.

**Shared care - best practice recommendations**

Oxfordshire CCG has published a joint document with the OUH and Oxford Health that aims to improve the communication of shared care. Oxford Health has three shared care protocols in use in Oxfordshire currently – lithium, clozapine, and ADHD medication. All prescribers seeking the agreement to share care with a patient's GP should familiarise themselves with this [Best Practice Guideline](#).

**Formulary decisions – classification and meaning**

1. Formulary  
*Medicines which can be prescribed by any prescriber within the Trust*
2. Formulary – restricted  
*Medicines that can be prescribed within the Trust but that have a specific restriction for their use, for example paliperidone long-acting injection. The restriction may have a clinical or a cost-effectiveness basis. The reason for prescribing a restricted medicine should be clearly documented in the patient's notes.*
3. Formulary – specialist  
*Medicines that are available to prescribers within a specific speciality only or that require specialist initiation.*
4. Formulary – consultant  
*Medicines that, for clinical reasons, should be initiated by a consultant only. For example: clozapine*
5. Non-formulary  
*Medicines that have not been approved for use in Oxford Health NHS FT. These are not routinely available. In exceptional circumstances consultants can make an application to use a non-formulary medicine on an individual patient basis (e.g. olanzapine long-acting injection). To do this, consultants should fill in a non-formulary request form and send it to pharmacy. This will then be distributed to various members of the Drugs and Therapeutics Group and other clinical directors where relevant in order for a decision to be made.*

Please note that, depending on what CCG Traffic Light category each drug has in primary care, a GP **may or may not** be able to prescribe or continue the prescribing of medicines that are prescribed in secondary care.

For more information on the traffic light categories and to see the traffic light medicine lists/formulary status please follow these links to the relevant counties:

[Oxfordshire](#)  
[Buckinghamshire](#)  
[BCAP](#) and [3Ts](#)

## NEW DRUGS

### Cariprazine

Cariprazine is a second generation antipsychotic licensed recently for the treatment of schizophrenia. It has been included on the Trust's formulary as a restricted medicine for use as a second-line treatment where negative symptoms predominate. Further information on the DTG decision, more details about its restriction, and information on prescribing are included in a [Medicine Information Bulletin](#) that is accessible on NetFormulary.

## DRUG SHORTAGES

### Delmosart

Delmosart 18mg and 27mg tablets are temporarily unavailable. The 36mg and 54mg remain in stock. The manufacturer describes the shortage as short term but is unable to provide a resolution date currently. Updates will be posted in the [methylphenidate section of the formulary](#) when known. Bioequivalent alternatives that could be prescribed in the interim include Xaggitin XL or Concerta XL.

### Phenelzine tablets

Kyowa Kirin are the sole supplier of phenelzine tablets in the UK. They have just announced that they will be out of stock for a period of at least three months from the beginning of August until the end of October 2019. Information is available on the [Specialist Pharmacy Services website](#) and is linked to from the Trust's formulary - further updates will be included on our formulary pages as and when available.

### Diamorphine 5mg injection

The 5mg strength diamorphine injection has been out of stock since May, and is not anticipated to be available again until early August. Information about [alternative options](#) is available on the trust's formulary.

## OTHER

### Clozapine plasma level testing

OHFT has been using a new clozapine assay service since the beginning of the year. The lab is called Analytical Services International (ASI) and is based at St. George's Hospital in London. One advantage of the new lab is the fast turnaround time of 48 hours after sample receipt. Results are available to view after registering at the ASI lab's website. Samples should not be sent to local labs. Further information about how to obtain the kits, where to send samples, and how to register for results is available on the [Trust's formulary](#).

### Antidepressants and Depression

For information:

- A [Position Statement on Antidepressants and Depression](#) was issued in May 2019 by The Royal College of Psychiatrists.
- The revised [NICE Depression in Children and Young People Guideline \[NG134\]](#) was published in June 2019.
- The NICE Depression in Adults Guideline is being updated currently with an expected publication date of February 2020.

### Clozapine POMH-UK results

The main aims of this baseline audit were to determine if appropriate physical health and side effect screening and monitoring were carried out for patients prescribed clozapine. Also, to ensure that patients who were prescribed clozapine for more than 12 months were annually reviewed by a senior clinician. The audit was given an overall rating of "requires improvement".

Areas for improvement include:

- Providing adequate, documented discussion with the patient and/or carer(s), outlining the potential benefits and possible side effects of the medication.
- Pre-treatment screening including physical examination, with assessment of the cardiovascular system and documenting this has been done.
- Documenting discussions with the patient and/or carers about off-label use.
- Documentation of annual medication reviews, taking account of therapeutic response and recognised side-effects.
- In the first month of treatment, evidencing that at least weekly assessments for common side effects such as cardiac symptoms, hypotension, constipation and weight gain had taken place.

The results of the audit are being discussed within the directorates and actions plans devised accordingly.

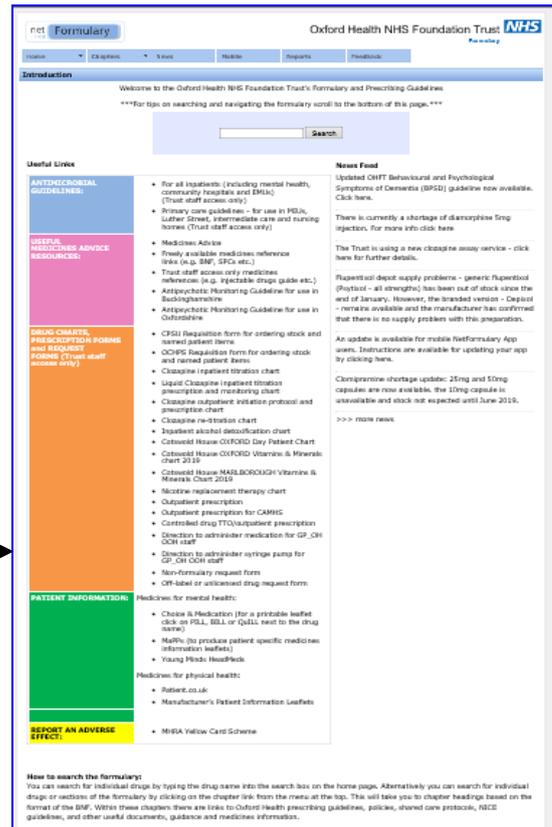
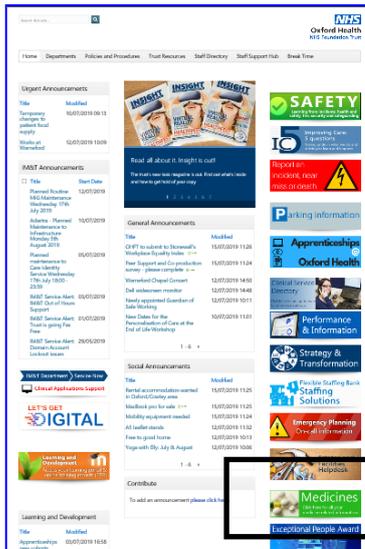
### Nembutal risk note

Nembutal is a barbiturate drug not available in the UK for human use. It is used in some countries for the purpose of euthanasia. Following an incident where a patient obtained it online for the purpose of self-harm in 2018, a [risk note](#) was issued within the Trust. There has been a second occurrence recently of a patient buying this drug online. It is therefore important for staff to be aware of the existence of this drug and the harm it can cause.



Don't forget to use Oxford Health's Formulary and Prescribing Guidelines website – details below

Access from the homepage of the Trust intranet, or directly (and in the public domain) at: [www.oxfordhealthformulary.nhs.uk](http://www.oxfordhealthformulary.nhs.uk)



NetFormulary is the main repository for all medicines related information and includes:

- ✓ OHFT formulary status of medicines
- ✓ Primary care traffic light status and links to local primary care formularies
- ✓ Prescribing guidelines
- ✓ Shared care protocols
- ✓ DTG decisions
- ✓ Medicine shortage information
- ✓ A news feed on the home page
- ✓ Medicines Information bulletins
- ✓ Patient information – links to leaflets and useful websites
- ✓ Links to OHFT drug charts, prescribing and ordering paperwork
- ✓ Links to useful websites and documents, including NICE guidelines and UKMI medicines question and answer summaries.

If you have a medicines-related enquiry and wish to speak to a pharmacist, please contact your team's clinical pharmacist in the first instance. Alternatively, you can contact the Trust's Medicines Advice Service – click on the box below for further information about who we are and how to contact us.

