





### Exciting times - coming soon – a new Formulary website

#### Background

Work started in February 2020 to migrate the existing Lothian Joint Formulary (LJF) content onto a new digital platform that has been developed for use across the NHS in Scotland. This platform has been developed with input from formulary users across the country and provides recommendations to users via a website, as well as a mobile application that is in development. The new platform will be launched when all the LJF content has been successfully migrated over. The target for completion is September 2020.

NHS Lothian is the first Health Board to utilise the new platform and the migration of the LJF will be the first step in establishing a new regional formulary for the East of Scotland. A new team are in place to lead on this exciting project. After the initial transfer of the LJF content to the new website, the Regional Formulary Team will work closely with the formulary teams in NHS Lothian, NHS Borders and NHS Fife, to scope and establish a regional formulary. Keep a look out for more news on this in the coming months.

#### So how is the LJF content being transferred to the new website?

	The existing LJF content is aligned to the new condition-based content structure. Care is taken to ensure no content is missed and that the original intent of each recommendation is not lost.
	The prepared content is set up on the new platform's content management system. Each new page of the website is compared against the source LJF page to ensure consistency.
	A series of clinical and quality checks are completed to ensure the formulary recommendations remain accurate. Individual formulations and dose instructions are checked for accuracy.
	The completed chapter is presented to the Formulary Committee for approval. Any key points identified during the migration of the chapter are highlighted to support decision making.

#### What are the advantages of the new website?

##### Evolving the formulary structure

The new platform expands the traditional formulary structure, based around BNF chapters, by presenting condition-based medicine recommendations. These place each formulary recommendation in context to illustrate how the medicine is used in the treatment of patients with common conditions.

##### Built using recognised standards

The new platform uses the NHS Business Services Authority 'Dictionary of Medicines and Devices' (dm+d). This is a dictionary of descriptions and codes representing medicines and devices in use across the NHS, providing a recognised standard for uniquely identifying items used in patient care. This helps to support the future use of the formulary within other systems.

##### Making it easier to access other resources

There are direct links, specific to the medicine, to the BNF, eMC (for SPC and PILs), Stockley's (for interactions) and SMC advice. If you follow a BNF link for example, it will take you direct to the correct page of the BNF for that product, without having to enter further information. This will help when getting additional information on contraindications or adverse effects for example.





##### Faster access to formulary decisions

The website contains purpose-built functionality for locating Formulary Committee decisions on new medicines and formulary applications.

This replaces the existing webtables, making it faster and easier to locate a decision amongst over 1,700 that are currently captured on the LJF website.

## How will I use the new website?

There are a few different ways to browse the formulary information from within the website. The Regional Formulary Team anticipate the Conditions A-Z will be the most used route of accessing formulary information, but it will be completely up to the user to choose the way they use the website.

	<b>Medicines A-Z</b>	If you want to know if a specific medicine is on the formulary: ⇒ You would pick paracetamol for example, from the A-Z menu, the results will list which pathways paracetamol is included in. You can then click on the one relevant to your query.
	<b>Conditions A-Z</b>	If you want to know what to prescribe for a particular condition: ⇒ You would pick acne for example, from the A-Z, the results will then list the different pathways for the treatment of acne. You can then click on the one relevant to your query.
	<b>Therapeutic Areas</b>	If you want to browse by chapter: ⇒ You would pick skin for example, you then see all the conditions included. You can then pick a condition and then a pathway.
	<b>Medicine Categories</b>	If you want to browse by the BNF number structure: ⇒ You would pick section 3.1.4 for example and to see which medicines are included for that section of the BNF. The site then allows you to connect from these medicines to the conditions they are recommended to treat.

A clever search facility, with suggestions as you type, is also available to make finding formulary content easier. Helpful guides on all the search and browse options available on the formulary site will be available prior to launch.

## Will there be an App for use on mobile devices?

Yes, an app is currently in development to complement the website and will replace the current LJF App. This will provide users with a fast and focused approach to finding formulary recommendations. The app will be able to operate offline, so a loss of signal won't stop the user from checking the formulary. The development work is expected to complete in August 2020 allowing both the website and mobile app to be available to users from launch.

## Regional Formulary Team

Jane Browning, Lead Pharmacist  
Steven Fenton, Project Manager  
Formulary Pharmacist (appointed but not yet in post)

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