



Regional Formulary Project—Update

Progress update

Chapter Expert Working Groups (CEWGs)

The first 3 chapters or therapeutic areas of the formulary that have been agreed regionally are skin, gastrointestinal and infection. These are for adults only, work on paediatric content has not yet started.

In NHS Lothian the website has been updated for all the pathways that sit under these therapeutic areas. In NHS Borders and Fife the pathways can be accessed via the board formulary websites as pdf documents, look out for the update. This is a temporary measure until Borders and Fife switch to using the new platform.

The second group of chapters include diabetes, respiratory and cardiology. These CEWG are in the process of meeting and agreeing content. The new content for these therapeutic areas will be available in February 2022. Work on paediatric chapters has not yet started, but will follow the same 'order' as the adult content.

The third group of therapeutic areas are Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Genitourinary, Musculoskeletal and Eye. Meetings are being planned for January and February. This content is expected to be available in April.

If anyone is keen to be involved in any of the chapter expert working groups, please note your interest with your local formulary pharmacist. Highlighting if you have any preference for a specific clinical area. It can be difficult in particular to know which GPs to ask. We need to have a primary care perspective on the working groups—you don't need to be an expert in the therapeutic area, just a keen interest.

A GP colleague recently said "this is a great opportunity to get involved and do something useful, clinical and interesting! It's a great place to start if you want to be a bit more involved in the wider NHS. As more and more requests come from hospital for GPs to take over the prescribing of complex medications, the formulary is part of the process of making sure what GPs are asked to do is safe and reasonable. If we don't have GP's inputting into this process, then it is harder to gather views on what it is reasonable to ask a GP to do."

East Region Working Group (ERWG) and East Region Formulary Committee (ERFC)

Future dates for these meetings are noted in the table. Formulary applications (FAF1s, FAF2s and formulary amendments) should be submitted 2 weeks before ERFC, to meet the submission deadline.

Formulary applications for offlabel or unlicensed medicines (FAF3s) should be submitted to ERWG first. Again submission date for papers is 2 weeks before the meeting.

East Region Formulary Committee Meeting dates	East Region Working Group Meeting dates
2 February 2022 30 March 2022 25 May 2022 27 July 2022	12 January 2022 9 March 2022 4 May 2022 6 July 2022

Remember that all formulary application forms need to include patient numbers from all three boards. Clinical teams will need to work together in completing the forms. The formulary teams can help with identifying contacts in the other boards if that is required.

A new suite of application forms has been developed, they have been designed to make the collation of information simpler for clinical teams. There will be a short period of grace where applications may be submitted on the old paperwork if work had already started on them.

Further information on the new process for FAFs and the application templates can be found [here](#).

[Formulary Application Form templates and application process flowchart.](#)

Accessing new formulary content






When complete, the new regional recommendations will be delivered to all formulary users in NHS Borders, Fife and Lothian via a new website and mobile app. The new content is presented using a condition and treatment pathway structure.

As we work through the process of approving each chapter of the regional content, the chapters will initially be made available to formulary users via the existing local formulary websites. This means that formulary users in NHS Borders and Fife will view the content as PDF documents from their own formulary websites, just as they do at present. NHS Lothian are currently using the new website.

Please remember that during this time of transition, Boards will have a mixture of own board formulary and ERF content. Your own Board's formulary is still in place.

As we head towards completion of the regional formulary development, we will reach a point where the new website will be re-branded East Region Formulary and users in NHS Borders and Fife will switch to using the site. Details of when this will take place will be communicated closer to the time.

To make the best use of the website and the pdf chapters, it is important to familiarise yourself with the symbols that are used. Symbols used in the formulary pathways:

A	Signifies a pathway for treatment of ADULTS
C	Signifies a pathways for treatment of CHILDREN
PF	Signifies a PHARMACY FIRST pathway
/1 /2 etc	First line, second line, etc choice(s) within the pathway
	Key information to note for these recommendations—linked to the medicine below it.
	Specialist Initiation: may be continued in a primary care setting
	Specialist Use Only: must only be prescribed by a specialist
	Unlicensed Medicine: a medicine with no UK marketing authorisation
	Unlicensed Indication: licensed medicine being used outside the terms of its licence

When using the website—if you hover over a symbol with your mouse—it will tell you what they signify. There are direct links from the medicine to BNF, eMC and Stockley for side effects—for more information on that medicine.

More information is also available via the website user videos.

[User guides and videos](#)

Previous updates on the East Region Formulary

[Exciting times - coming soon – a new formulary website](#) (June 2020)

[Soft Launch of new formulary website](#) (December 2020)

[Launch of new formulary website](#) (January 2021)

[Regional Formulary update](#) (March 2021)

[Launch of new formulary app](#) (March 2021)

[East Region Formulary Update](#) (September 2021)

Lothian Prescribing Bulletin articles; [Sep 2020](#), [July 2021](#), [Sep 2021](#)

Regional Formulary Team

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