

East Region Formulary Update—May 2023

New East Region Formulary Platform Launched

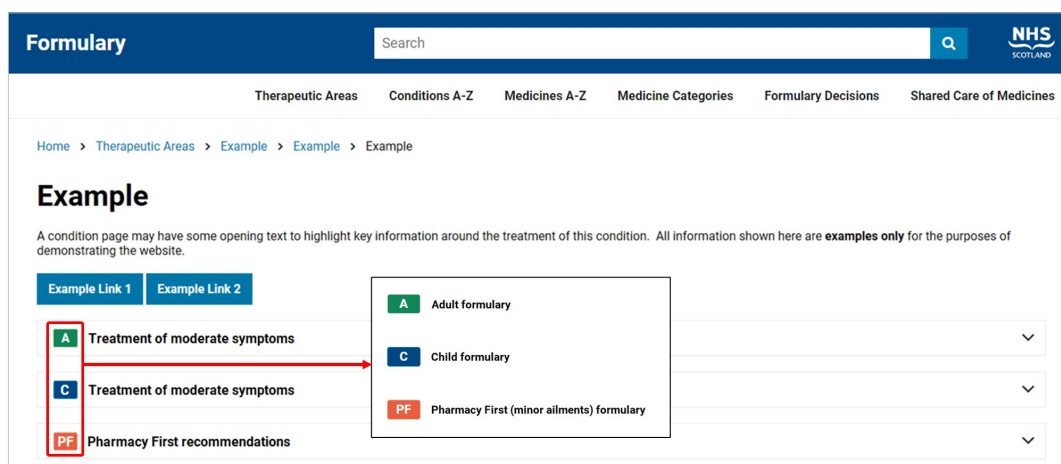
Over the last two years colleagues from NHS Borders, NHS Fife and NHS Lothian have been working to develop Scotland's first regional formulary. The core content for the adult formulary has now been agreed and approved by the East Region Formulary Committee, so all three Boards are now able to begin using the new formulary platform.

The platform consists of a purpose-built website and mobile app, which provide a flexible approach to browsing formulary content. Colleagues in NHS Lothian will be familiar with the new platform, as it has been tested within Lothian prior to the roll-out across the whole region.

This special update provides information on the new platform to help you become familiar with its key features. You can access the website now, at <https://formulary.nhs.scot/east>





Conditions and Treatment Pathways

The formulary has evolved from the traditional BNF structured 'list of medicines' and now presents recommendations using a condition-based structure, which aligns formulary choices to the treatment of the patient. Formulary recommendations are therefore detailed on condition-specific pages, with individual 'Treatment Pathway' sections highlighting different aspects of treatment. These pathways may cover Adult, Child, or Pharmacy First recommendations as indicated by the icons shown here:



Navigating the Website

The new website offers a variety of navigation options to help you locate formulary recommendations. All are available from a menu bar at the top of the screen, so can be accessed wherever you are on the site. A clever search facility, with suggestions as you type, is also available to make finding formulary content easier.

	Conditions A-Z	Access formulary recommendations by medical condition, using a simple A-Z index. This is the quickest method of reaching formulary choices.
	Therapeutic Areas	Explore formulary recommendations by Therapeutic Area (chapter). Simply select a chapter name from the list and then browse to the condition-based recommendations.
	Medicines A-Z	Use a simple A-Z index to check whether a medicine is on the formulary. Selecting a generic medicine name will then tell you which condition(s) it is on formulary to treat, allowing you to view the medicine in context.
	Medicine Categories	If you'd like to browse the formulary using the legacy BNF medicine categories, you can do this here.

Mobile App

The East Region Formulary is also available to access via a mobile app. The 'NHS Scotland Formulary' mobile app has been designed to be used by multiple Health Boards, with the East Region being the first to have access to the new platform.

Like the new formulary website, the mobile app presents condition-based formulary recommendations. The design of the app matches the website in order to provide a consistent experience and it can also be used offline.

You can download the app by searching for 'NHS Scotland Formulary' in the Apple or Google Play app stores.



Other Key Features

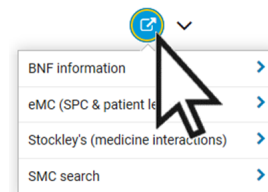
Helpful Flags and Icons

As you browse the website and app you will see various flags, symbols and icons. Simply hover your mouse over the image (or tap the image if using a mobile device) to check what it means.



Easy Access to Other Resources

Each medicine listed on the formulary has a 'quick links' button to provide direct access to the BNF monograph for that specific medicine, as well as enabling a quick search of the eMC website (for SPC and PILs), Stockley's (for interactions) or SMC advice.



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. All of the formulations detailed on the site therefore use the dm+d description, providing consistency and supporting the future use of formulary data within other systems.

Cetirizine

Cetirizine 10mg tablets

Cetirizine 1mg/ml oral solution sugar free

Quick Access to Formulary Decisions

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

This section does not contain a full list of formulary recommendations, instead it focuses on the outcome of decisions made by the East Region Formulary Committee (e.g. SMC medicines, formulary applications).

Formulary Decisions

Search for the outcome of decisions made by the Formulary Committee

Generic medicine name	Medicine brand name	Therapeutic area	Status
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Start date	End date	Source	Advanced Filters
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="button" value="Submit"/> <input type="button" value="Clear"/>			

Additional Support

We've developed two short videos (less than 4 minutes each) to demonstrate some of the functionality of the website and mobile app. These can be accessed on the formulary website:

<https://formulary.nhs.scot/east/help-and-support/for-healthcare-professionals/user-guides-and-videos/>

Contact Us

If you've any questions, or would like to provide any feedback on the new website and mobile app, please get in touch via the Contact Us form on the website:

<https://formulary.nhs.scot/east/help-and-support/contact-us/>