



## Regional Formulary Project — Update

### Great Progress with East Region Formulary Development

We have now completed the development work and launched the first 9 adult chapters of the East Region Formulary. The completed chapters to date are:

<b>Cardiovascular system</b>	<b>Endocrine system</b>	<b>Gastro-intestinal system</b>
<b>Infections</b>	<b>Musculoskeletal and joint diseases</b>	<b>Obstetrics, gynaecology, and urinary-tract disorders</b>
<b>Respiratory system</b>	<b>Skin</b>	<b>Pharmacy First (minor ailments)</b>

These chapters are available to colleagues in NHS Lothian on the [formulary website](#) and will be made available on the existing [NHS Borders](#) and [NHS Fife](#) formulary websites as PDF documents. This is a temporary measure until Borders and Fife switch to using the new platform later this year.

The Eye chapter, and the Ear, Nose & Oropharynx chapter will be reviewed at the 25th May meeting of the East Region Formulary Committee. If approved at that meeting they will be launched in June.

Development work is currently focused on the Central Nervous System chapter. This is a particularly large chapter of the formulary, so has been divided up into five sections to aid development. Once work on the CNS chapter is complete we will turn our attention to the four remaining adult chapters of the formulary: Anaesthesia, Malignant Disease, Nutrition & Blood and Wound care.

Work on paediatric chapters has not yet started. These chapters are in the early stages of planning and we will update you further in due course.

If you are keen to be involved in any of the forthcoming chapter expert working groups, please note your interest with your local formulary pharmacist, highlighting if you have any preference for a specific clinical area. 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.

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

Future dates for these meetings are noted in the table below. Formulary applications (FAF1s, FAF2s and formulary amendments) should be submitted 2 weeks before ERFC, to meet the submission deadline. Formulary applications for off-label or unlicensed medicines (FAF3s) should be submitted to ERWG first. Again submission date for papers is 2 weeks before the meeting. 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. The forms that are required for these applications can all be found [on our website](#).

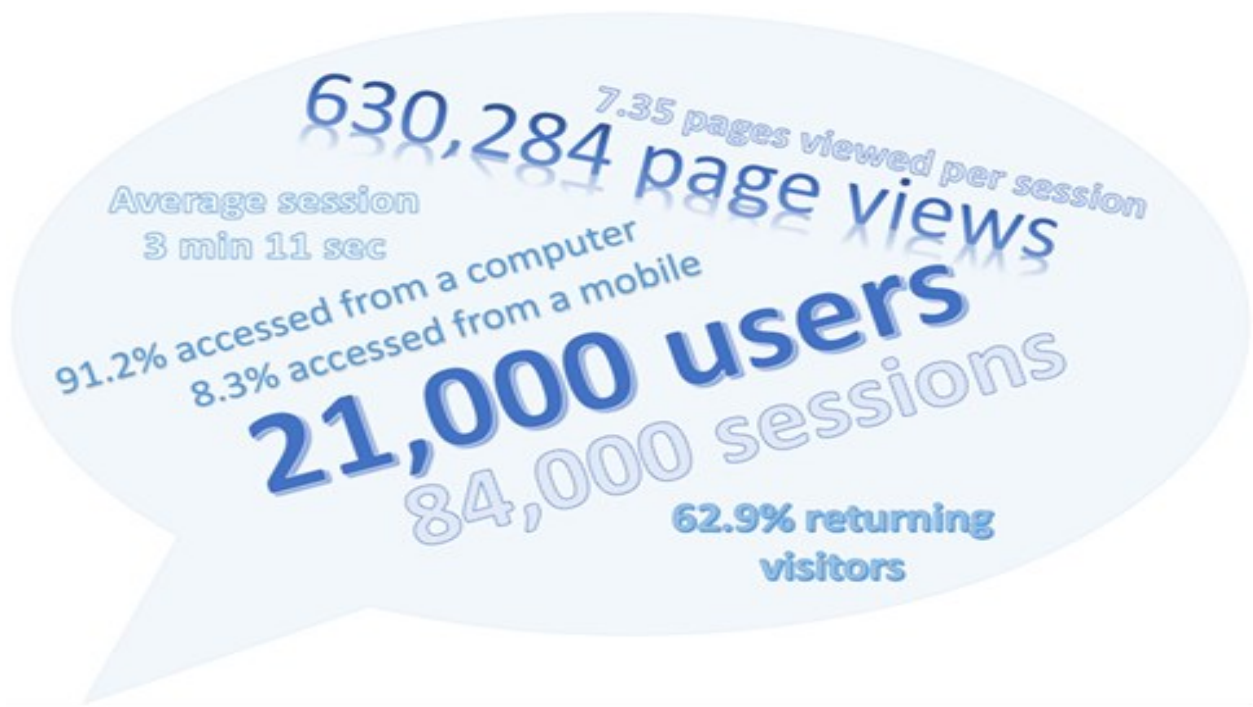
<b>East Region Formulary Committee (ERFC)</b> <b>Meeting dates</b>	<b>East Region Working Group (ERWG)</b> <b>Meeting dates</b>
27 July 2022 28 September 2022 30 November 2022	6 July 2022 7 September 2022 9 November 2022

#### MHRA Drug Safety Updates and SIGN Guideline inclusion in the East Region Formulary

The MHRA drug safety updates are a standing item at the ERWG meetings. These updates are summarised and discussed, but the content is not automatically added as routine to the formulary and instead is considered on a case-by-case basis. The content is considered carefully and could be included in future updates where relevant. The ERWG will identify where there is an urgent need for any update content to be included. SIGN guidelines are also now a standing item at the ERWG meetings. Any updates to these guidelines will be considered assigned to the relevant chair of a specific Chapter Expert Working Group where appropriate.

## Update on website usage

The infographic below highlights just how well used the new formulary website has become since being launched in NHS Lothian. The information below covers the last 6 months of use, and this will rise considerably when NHS Fife and Borders switch to using the site later this year.



Please remember that during this time of transition, all three Boards will have a mixture of local and regional content on their formulary websites until all regional chapter development work is complete.

## Specialist Initiation **SI** and Specialist Use Only **SUO** symbols

These are two of the symbols that are used widely throughout the ERF pathways. Specialist Initiation means it is recommended that these medicines must be initiated by a specialist clinician but are appropriate to be continued in a primary care setting. This initiation could be a recommendation, or prescribing and supply of the medicine from hospital.

Specialist Use Only means it is recommended that these medicines must only be prescribed by a specialist. Initiation and monitoring of treatment should remain under the direct supervision of the appropriate specialist clinician.

Legal responsibility for prescribing lies with the doctor or health professional who signs the prescription, and it is the responsibility of the individual prescriber to prescribe within their own level of competence. The new formulary website and app provide assistance in understanding all of the symbols used in the formulary. Simply hover over a symbol with your mouse (or tap the symbol if using a touch-screen device) and a pop-up will appear to tell you what they signify.

## 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)

[East Region Formulary Progress Update](#) (December 2021)

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

## Regional Formulary Team

Jane Browning, Lead Pharmacist; Kirsty Macfarlane, Regional Formulary Pharmacist;  
Jayne Stuart, Formulary Support Pharmacist; Steven Fenton, Project Manager.  
Contact us [through the website](#) or by emailing [prescribing@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:prescribing@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk)