

# Preferred Prescribing List (for new prescribing)

Last updated January 2025

**This is a live document and is updated frequently – DO NOT PRINT**

Press Ctrl + F5 to ensure you are seeing the most recent version



**Nottingham and  
Nottinghamshire**

**Aim: To list the preferred brands for new prescribing in primary care in Nottinghamshire.** For further preferred brand information for specific groups of products, please click on the links below:

- [Barrier preparations formulary](#)
- [Blood glucose test meters formulary](#)
- [Emollient formulary](#)
- [Eye lubricant formulary](#)
- [HRT formulary choices](#)

**This document consists of the following sections**

- [Preferred Brands](#)
- [Controlled drugs](#)
- [Preferred inhalers](#)
- [Preferred Contraceptives](#)
- [Preferred Strengths](#)
- [Preferred Formulations](#)
- [Cost effective needle choice](#)

## Preferred Brand

Medicine name	Please prescribe as
Alfuzosin 10mg MR tablets	Besavar XL tablets
Alimemazine oral solution sugar free	Itzenal
Betamethasone (as Valerate) 0.1% cream / ointment	Generic prescribing preferred
Co-careldopa & entacapone	Sastravi or Stanek
Co-careldopa standard release tablets	Sinemet <i>Please note- Generic prescribing for 12.5mg/50mg and 25mg/100mg strengths is more cost effective</i>
Maintenance dose Vitamin D Colecalciferol 1000unit tablets <i>Prescribe by brand as per Vitamin D guidelines</i>	Vitamin D ValuPak food supplement (patients should buy their own unless exempt – <a href="#">see formulary and guidelines</a> )
Treatment dose Vitamin D Colecalciferol 20,000unit capsules	Colextra-D3 capsules <a href="#">See adult vitamin D guideline</a>
Diltiazem 60mg MR (TDS formulation) <i>Prescribe by brand</i>	Retalzem 60mg MR tablets or Tildiem 60mg MR tablets <i>Prescribe by brand to ensure correct frequency product is selected</i>
Diltiazem MR (BD formulation) <i>Prescribe by brand</i>	Angitil SR capsules or Tildiem Retard tablets <i>Prescribe by brand to ensure correct frequency product is selected</i>
Diltiazem MR (OD formulation) <i>Prescribe by brand</i>	Slozem or Zemtard capsules <i>Prescribe by brand to ensure correct frequency product is selected</i>
Ethosuximide 250mg capsules	Generic prescribing preferred
Ethosuximide 250mg/5ml oral solution	Emeside 250mg/5ml syrup ( <i>Note syrup is not sugar free</i> )
Fluticasone propionate nasal spray (50mcg/spray)	Nasofan (150 dose pack) <i>Note that beclometasone is preferred formulary option.</i>
Galantamine XL	Gazytan XL or Galzemic XL
Galantamine 4mg/ml oral solution	Galzemic 4mg/ml oral solution
Glycopyrronium bromide tablets	Assicco

# Preferred Prescribing List (for new prescribing)

Last updated January 2025

**This is a live document and is updated frequently – DO NOT PRINT**

Press Ctrl + F5 to ensure you are seeing the most recent version



**Nottingham and  
Nottinghamshire**

Medicine name	Please prescribe as
Ibuprofen gel 5%	Fenbid Gel 5%
Isosorbide mononitrate MR 60mg tablet	Tardisc XL, Monomil XL or Chemydur 60XL
Lidocaine 5% medicated plaster	Generic prescribing preferred ( <b>Amber 2</b> for Post Herpetic Neuralgia - <b>RED</b> for other indications)
Macrogol paediatric	Cosmocol Paediatric or Laxido Paediatric Plain
Magnesium supplements (magnesium aspartate)	Magnaspartate 243mg (10mmol) powder sachets, AsparMag 243mg (10mmol) powder sachets available to prescribe however note they are UNLICENSED
Mesalazine 400mg gastro-resistant tablet <i>Prescribe by brand</i>	Octasa
Metronidazole 0.75% Gel / Cream	Rozex gel or cream or generic cream only
Nifedipine MR (BD formulation) <i>OK to switch between brands of same frequency</i>	Tensipine MR tablets or Adipine MR tablets <i>Prescribe by brand to ensure correct frequency product is selected</i>
Nifedipine MR (OD formulation) <i>OK to switch between brands of same frequency</i>	Adipine XL tablets <i>Prescribe by brand to ensure correct frequency product is selected</i>
Omeprazole dispersible tablets ( <i>only if opening capsules not possible</i> )	Mezzopram
Pramipexole MR tablet	Pipexus
Progesterone micronized 100mg capsules	Generic prescribing preferred
Promethazine hydrochloride tablets	Generic prescribing preferred
Quetiapine MR tablet	Sondate XL Although not the lowest acquisition cost, Sondate XL agreed locally to avoid frequent switching and confusion
Rivastigmine Patches	Alzest Patches
Ropinirole MR	Ipinnia XL or Repinex XL
Sodium chloride 0.9% inhalation solution (nebulas)	PulmoClear 0.9%, Respi-Clear 0.9% or Knoxzy 0.9%
Tolterodine MR capsule	Tolthen XL or Blerone XL <i>Use standard release first line</i>
Verapamil MR 120mg tablet	Vera-Til SR or Half Securon SR
Verapamil MR 240mg tablet	Vera-Til SR or Securon SR

# Preferred Prescribing List (for new prescribing)

Last updated January 2025

**This is a live document and is updated frequently – DO NOT PRINT**

Press Ctrl + F5 to ensure you are seeing the most recent version



**Nottingham and  
Nottinghamshire**

## Controlled Drugs

All strong opioids should be prescribed by brand to avoid confusion and allow for continuity of supply, reducing risk of potential dosing, dispensing and administration errors.

\*Prescribe generically for these oral solutions only as the generic version is now cheaper.

\*\*Lower cost brands available but need county wide approval before changing.

Medicine name	Please prescribe as
Buprenorphine transdermal patch (changed every 4 days)	Bupeaze <i>Important to prescribe by brand to ensure correct frequency product is selected</i>
Buprenorphine transdermal patch (changed weekly)	Butech** <i>Important to prescribe by brand to ensure correct frequency product is selected</i>
Fentanyl transdermal patch (changed every 72 hours)	Opiodur
Methylphenidate modified-release tablets	Affenid XL, Delmosart or Xaggitin XL <i>Important to prescribe by brand. Standard release formulations can be prescribed generically.</i>
Morphine sulphate standard release	Sevredol tablets
Morphine sulphate MR capsules Note that tablets are more expensive	Zomorph capsules
Morphine sulphate oral solution	Generic*
Oxycodone standard release	Shortec
Oxycodone modified-release tablets	Longtec**
Oxycodone oral solution sugar-free	Generic*
Tramadol 12 hour modified-release tablets (BD formulation)	Marol** or Tramulief** <i>Use standard release first line</i>

## Inhalers – Please prescribe by brand

Preferred Prescribing in adults aged 18 years and over

For appropriate inhaler choices for children please refer to [Children and Young People \(5 to 17 years\) Asthma Treatment Algorithm](#)

Prescribe Dry Powder Inhaler (DPI) in preference to Metered Dose Inhaler (MDI), as appropriate, to minimise environmental impact. [Greener Inhaler Alternatives Medicines Optimisation Toolkit for ADULTS](#)

Medicine name	Please prescribe as
Ventolin 100 MDI (200 dose) (Salbutamol)	Salamol 100 MDI (200 dose)
Salbutamol 100microgram/dose DPI (200 dose)	Easyhaler Salbutamol 100 (200 dose)
Fostair MDI (120 dose) (Beclometasone + Formoterol) NB 200microgram/dose is not licensed for COPD indication (all brands)	Luforbec MDI (120 dose) or Bibecfo MDI (120 dose)
Beclometasone 200microgram/dose DPI (200 dose) (£14.93)	Easyhaler Beclometasone 200 DPI (200 dose) (At the standard dose of 1 dose BD the repeat prescription interval is 100 days)

# Preferred Prescribing List (for new prescribing)

Last updated January 2025

**This is a live document and is updated frequently – DO NOT PRINT**

Press Ctrl + F5 to ensure you are seeing the most recent version



**Nottingham and  
Nottinghamshire**

Medicine name	Please prescribe as
Clenil Modulite MDI (200 dose) (£7.42) (Beclometasone)	Soprobe MDI (200 dose)
Qvar MDI (200 dose) (Beclometasone)	Kelhale MDI (200 dose)
Symbicort Turbuhaler DPI (120 dose), DuoResp Spiromax (120 dose) (Budesonide + Formoterol)	Fobumix Easyhaler (120 dose)
Seretide Evohaler MDI (120 dose), Sirdupla MDI (120 dose) (Fluticasone + Salmeterol)	Avenor MDI (120 dose) or Combisal MDI (120 dose)
Seretide Accuhaler DPI (60 dose) (Fluticasone + Salmeterol)	Sereflo Ciphaler DPI (60 dose)
Flutiform MDI (120 dose) (Fluticasone + Formoterol)	Avenor MDI* (120 dose) or Combisal MDI* (120 dose) <i>*Note Avenor and Combisal contain Fluticasone + Salmeterol</i>

## Oral Contraception

Medicine name	Please prescribe as
Co-cyprindiol 2000microgram/35microgram tablet	Clairette or Dianette
Desogestrel 75 microgram <i>Prescribe by brand in soya or nut allergy (some generics may contain ingredients unsuitable for soya or nut allergy sufferers - check individual SPCs)</i>	Desogestrel 75microgram generic
Desogestrel 150 microgram / Ethinylestradiol 20 microgram	Bimizza or Gedarel 20/150
Desogestrel 150 microgram / Ethinylestradiol 30 microgram	Cimizt or Gedarel 30/150
Drospirenone 3 mg / Ethinylestradiol 30 microgram	Yacella or Dretine
Ethinylestradiol 35microgram / Norgestimate 250microgram	Cilique or Lizinna
Ethinylestradiol 20microgram / Gestodene 75microgram	Millinette 20/75
Ethinylestradiol 30microgram / Gestodene 75microgram	Millinette 30/75
Ethinylestradiol / Levonorgestrel multiphasic	TriRegol
Ethinylestradiol 30 microgram / Levonorgestrel 150 microgram	Levest or Rigevidon
Levonorgestrel 1500 microgram tablet	Generic prescribing preferred

# Preferred Prescribing List (for new prescribing)

Last updated January 2025

This is a live document and is updated frequently – DO NOT PRINT

Press Ctrl + F5 to ensure you are seeing the most recent version



**Nottingham and  
Nottinghamshire**

## Preferred Strengths (prices shown for one month's treatment)

Medication	Preferred strength / preparation (prices based on discarding remaining half of tablet)
<b>Carbocisteine 750mg capsule</b> (£18.98 for 60 caps)	2 x 375mg capsules (£3.40 for 120)
<b>Carbimazole 10mg tablets</b> (£94.85 for 100 tabs)	2 x 5mg tablets (£3.16 for 200 tabs)
<b>Fluoxetine 10mg</b> (Tablet £61.73, capsule £9.76)	20mg dispersible tablets halved (£3.44)
<b>Gabapentin 600mg tablets</b> (£6.09 for 100 tablets)	2 x 300mg capsules (£4.64 for 200 capsules)
<b>Gabapentin 800mg tablets</b> (£18.83 for 100 tablets)	2 x 400mg capsules (£6.16 for 200 capsules)
<b>Ivabradine 2.5mg</b> (£28.29)	5mg tablets are scored and licensed to be divided into equal doses (£5.67). 7.5mg tablets also available (£3.79)
<b>Lorazepam 500microgram</b> (£18.95 for 28 tablets)	Halve 1mg tablet (£1.30 for 28 tablets). The generic tablets manufactured by Genus are preferred if sublingual administration or doses of 500 micrograms are required (tablets are scored), but other manufacturers also produce scored tablets.
<b>Methotrexate tablets</b> ( <b>Amber 1</b> , shared care)	2.5mg tablets must be prescribed - 10mg tablets are <b>GREY</b> and must NEVER be prescribed in primary care due to risk of dosing error.
<b>Nortriptyline 50mg tablets</b> (£40.47 for 30 tablets)	2 x 25mg tablets (£1.72 for 100 tablets)
<b>Risperidone 250microgram tablet</b> (£38 for 20 tablets)	Risperidone 0.25mg tablets should be reserved for patients who are unable to halve 0.5mg tablets (£2.53 for 20 tablets) or use liquid (more cost-effective options)
<b>Sertraline 150mg tablet</b> (£14.85 for 30 tablets) <b>Sertraline 200mg tablet</b> (£19.80 for 30 tablets)	100mg tablets (£1.14 for 28 tabs) and/or 50mg tablets (£0.89 for 28 tabs)
<b>Tamoxifen 10mg</b> (£16.69)	20mg alternate days (£1.09)
<b>Venlafaxine MR 225mg</b> (tablet £33.60, capsule £14.47)	150mg + 75mg tablets or capsules (£12.87 capsules, £6.50 tablets)

## Preferred Formulations

Medication	Preferred Formulation
<b>Metformin 500mg/5ml Oral Solution</b>	Oral powder sachets (500mg)
<b>Naproxen</b>	Plain (+/-PPI), not EC
<b>Nortriptyline</b>	Tablets (50mg tablets very expensive – consider 2 x 25mg)
<b>Paracetamol</b>	Tablets
<b>Paracetamol Soluble tablets</b>	Effervescent tablets
<b>Rivaroxaban</b>	Tablets
<b>Rosuvastatin</b>	Tablets
<b>Tamsulosin MR</b>	Capsules
<b>Tolterodine</b>	Immediate release not MR
<b>Ursodeoxycholic acid</b>	Capsules
<b>Zolmitriptan</b>	Orodispersible tablets

# Preferred Prescribing List (for new prescribing)

Last updated January 2025

**This is a live document and is updated frequently – DO NOT PRINT**

Press Ctrl + F5 to ensure you are seeing the most recent version



**Nottingham and  
Nottinghamshire**

## Cost Effective Needles (See [here](#) for link to blood glucose and ketone meter formulary)

Cost Effective Needle Choice
Gluco Rx Carepoint
GlucoRx CarePoint Ultra
Insupen Original
GreenFine

*This resource has been developed to facilitate the safe and effective review of preferred prescribing, using current accessible references and is correct at the time of approval.*

*Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB (N&N ICB) Medicines Optimisation Team only have oversight for the management of errors occurring within their own organisation. Each organisation is therefore responsible for any prescribing errors or omissions that may occur within their organisation because of using this resource and must follow their own safety governance process.*

*Organisations must inform N&N ICB Medicines Optimisation team should they become aware of any errors or updates required within the Preferred Prescribing List.*