

Preferred Prescribing List (for new prescribing)

Last updated January 2024

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**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 Contraceptives](#)
- [Preferred Strengths](#)
- [Preferred Formulations](#)
- [Cost effective needle choice](#)

Preferred Brands

Medicine name	Please prescribe as
Alfuzosin 10mg MR tablets	Besavar XL tablets
Alimemazine oral solution sugar free <i>Non sugar free also available but more expensive and should not be prescribed</i>	Itzenal
Beclometasone and formoterol 120dose CFC free MDI	Luforbec
Betamethasone (as Valerate) 0.1% cream / ointment	Audavate or Betnovate
Calcipotriol 0.005% / Betamethasone dipropionate 0.05% 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>
Colecalciferol 1000unit – 3000unit tablets <i>Prescribe by brand as per Vitamin D guidelines</i>	Vitamin D ValuPak food supplement (patients should buy their own unless exempt – see formulary and guidelines)
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	Emeside
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	Gazyilan XL or Galzemic XL
Galantamine 4mg/ml oral solution	Galzemic 4mg/ml oral solution

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Medicine name	Please prescribe as
Glycopyrronium bromide tablets	Assicco
Ibuprofen gel 5%	Fenbid Gel 5%
Isosorbide mononitrate MR 60mg tablet	Tardisc XL, Monomil XL or Chemydur 60XL
Lidocaine 5% medicated plaster	Ralvo <i>(Amber 2 for Post Herpetic Neuralgia - RED for other indications)</i>
Macrogol paediatric	Cosmocol Paediatric or Laxido Paediatric Plain
Magnesium supplements (magnesium aspartate)	Magnaspartate 243mg (10mmol) powder sachets
Mesalazine 400mg gastro-resistant tablet	Octasa
Methenamine Hippurate 1g tablets	Generic prescribing preferred
Metronidazole 0.75% Gel / Cream	Rozex gel or cream
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, Neozipine XL or Valni 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	Gepretix
Promethazine hydrochloride tablets	Phenergan
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 alginate with calcium carbonate and sodium bicarbonate (Gaviscon Original)	Generic prescribing preferred – DT price based on Peptac
Sodium chloride 0.9% inhalation solution (nebules)	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>
Venlafaxine MR (OD formulation)	Generic venlafaxine MR tablets or capsules <i>Note that 225mg is expensive – use 150mg + 75mg (see here)</i>
Verapamil MR 120mg tablet	Vera-Til SR or Half Securon SR
Verapamil MR 240mg tablet	Vera-Til SR or Securon SR

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.

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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)	Butec Lower cost brands available but need county wide approval before changing to avoid confusion <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 Lower cost brands available but need county wide approval before changing to avoid confusion
Oxycodone oral solution sugar-free	Generic*
Tramadol 12 hour modified-release tablets (BD formulation)	Marol or Tramulief <i>Use standard release first line</i>

*Prescribe generically for these oral solution only as the generic version is now cheaper

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

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Medicine name	Please prescribe as
Ethinylestradiol / Levonorgestrel multiphasic	TriRegol
Ethinylestradiol 30 microgram / Levonorgestrel 150 microgram	Levest or Rigevidon
Levonorgestrel 1500 microgram tablet	Emerres or Upostelle

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

Medication	Preferred strength / preparation (prices based on discarding remaining half of tablet)
Carbocisteine 750mg capsule (£18.98 for 60 caps)	2 x 375mg capsules (£5.35 for 120)
Carbimazole 10mg tablets (£81.32 for 100 tabs)	2 x 5mg tablets (£3.98 for 200 tabs)
Colecalciferol 2000units tabs Colecalciferol 3000unit tablets	2 x 1000unit ValuPak tablets (£0.75 for 60 tabs) 3 x 1000unit ValuPak tablets (£0.75 for 60 tabs) or 2740unit/ml sugar free oral drops (£10.70 for 25ml)
Fluoxetine 10mg (Tablet £61.73, capsule £16.24)	20mg dispersible tablets halved (£3.44)
Gabapentin 600mg tablets (£14.99 for 100 tablets)	2 x 300mg capsules (£5.10 for 200 capsules)
Gabapentin 800mg tablets (£26.91 for 100 tablets)	2 x 400mg capsules (£6.72 for 200 capsules)
Ivabradine 2.5mg (£46.08)	5mg tablets are scored and licensed to be divided into equal doses (£28.71). 7.5mg tablets also available (£5.36)
Lorazepam 500microgram (£19.48 for 28 tablets)	Halve 1mg tablet (£1.41 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.
Methotrexate tablets (Amber 1, shared care)	2.5mg tablets must be prescribed - 10mg tablets are RED and must NEVER be prescribed in primary care due to risk of dosing error.
Nortriptyline 50mg tablets (£64.27 for 30 tablets)	2 x 25mg tablets (£2.07 for 100 tablets)
Risperidone 250microgram tablet (£38 for 20 tablets)	Risperidone 0.25mg tablets should be reserved for patients who are unable to halve 0.5mg tablets (£2.55 for 20 tablets) or use liquid (more cost-effective options)
Tamoxifen 10mg (£38.01)	20mg alternate days (£1.99)
Venlafaxine MR 225mg (tablet £33.60, capsule £16.38)	150mg + 75mg tablets or capsules (£8.01 capsules, £5.89 tablets)

Preferred Formulations

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

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

Cost Effective Needle Choice
GlucRx Carepoint
GlucRx CarePoint Ultra
Insupen Original
GreenFine