

ELMMB Joint Medicines Formulary and Traffic Light Index

January 2018



The East Lancashire Medicines Management Board Joint Medicines Formulary is intended to ensure that patients have continuity of medicines across the interface between primary and secondary care and aims to help prescribers choose the most effective medicines whilst ensuring value for money in the use of NHS resources.

The Joint Medicines Formulary is applicable to **ALL prescribers in both primary and secondary care across the East Lancashire Health Economy.**

Items not listed in the Joint Medicines Formulary are deemed unsuitable to prescribe.

Non-formulary items are **NOT** stocked by the hospital pharmacy and requests for clinicians in primary care to prescribe should not be accepted. Where such requests are presented in primary care, the prescriber should be contacted and asked to recommend an appropriate alternative formulary item.

Below is a summary of the traffic light index used throughout the Joint Medicines Formulary:

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|------------------------------------|---|
| GREEN | Medicines which may be freely prescribed by all prescribers within local or national recommendations |
| AMBER | Medicines which should only be initiated/recommended by specialists but which may then be passed to primary care prescribers for prescribing |
| AMBER WITH SHARED CARE | These are still AMBER medicines which should only be initiated in secondary care, but which may be passed to primary care prescribers for prescribing provided the terms of a locally agreed shared care protocol are met |
| RED | Medicines which should only be used within the secondary care setting. Primary care prescribers should not be asked to prescribe. |
| BLACK | Medicines which have been reviewed and deemed less suitable for prescribing, and are therefore not recommended in primary or secondary care. This may be due to a lack of good clinical evidence, or due to the availability of more suitable alternatives. |
| GREY/ GREY UNDER REVIEW | Once a new drug has been launched, it is automatically given a GREY traffic light; GREY UNDER REVIEW is a holding position for those drugs currently under review and pending a traffic light designation. These drugs should not be prescribed until a traffic light is assigned. |

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**For further information, please contact the Medicines Management Team on
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