

Therapeutics Advisory Group Update – Traffic Light Classifications – March 2025

BLACK	Not commissioned. Not suitable for NHS prescribing in primary or secondary care This covers medication and devices that are not commissioned for use in Norfolk and Waveney. It also includes NICE TAs where the treatment has not been recommended.
NICE approved	NWICB are committed to fund positive NICE TAs. Awaiting clarification of place in pathway and commissioning arrangements. Further guidance to be issued when available. This is a holding position which acknowledges NICE-approved TAs with ICB-commissioned responsibility which have not yet been allocated a traffic light classification.
BLUE	Formulary application and discussion required prior to addition to formulary. This includes new products on the Horizon Scanning list and those medications and devices in primary and secondary care which don't have a NICE TA or have not yet been considered for addition to formulary.
Double Red	Not recommended for routine use. To be used only as a last resort in exceptional circumstances. Seek advice from Medicines Optimisation Team where appropriate Includes situations such as transfer of care, patient moving from out of area, or where other treatment or pathway options have been exhausted. Some items may require formal approval via the IFR process.
RED	Restricted Use – Prescribing to remain with the hospital or specialist service. No prescribing in primary care Includes acute and mental health trusts and other specialist commissioning services. Classification does not automatically signify that a drug will be available within secondary care.
FULL SCA	Shared Care Agreement These are drugs covered by a formal shared care agreement within the current LCS. Level will be highlighted in each individual document and in the Netformulary entry. Specialist will send a request to provider when it is deemed suitable to transfer prescribing to primary care. Agreement will be assumed unless the primary care provider states otherwise.
AI	Amber Initiate - Specialist initiation. Prescribing will switch to primary care as per commissioning agreement or when clinically appropriate. Specialist requirements will be noted in the drug's Netformulary entry and guidance document. Treatments listed under this classification are not included in the formal shared care LCS and there will be no additional payment for prescribing.
ADVICE	Advice – Primary care initiation following specialist recommendation Primary care initiation following receipt of verbal or written recommendation from primary or secondary care specialist clinician with relevant expertise.
Guidance documents will be developed to support prescribing of drugs within the AI and the ADVICE categories to support clinicians who may not have experience of prescribing or monitoring these drugs	
GREEN	Formulary – Can be initiated and prescribed in primary or secondary care within licensed indications This covers most drugs on the primary care formulary
SWITCH	Not recommended for prescribing. Switch to cost-effective alternative This category will act as a reminder of the cost-effective switches and will be reviewed monthly
OTC	Available to buy over the counter. Consider self-care Drugs in this category will be available to buy over the counter.
DM	Discontinued Medicines This category will be under constant review and updated regularly