

22 September 2022

Your Request:

We would therefore like to reach out and ask if the product (Aciclover Agepha Eye Ointment 3%) is available in the formulary and if not what's the procedural inclusion steps into the formulary, which will allow healthcare professionals to prescribe Aciclovir.

Our Response:

Please note from 01 July 2022, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) were disestablished, and their statutory functions and responsibilities inherited by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB. As a result, NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB has inherited the two former formularies in operation by the former CCGs, which are the Pan Mersey Formulary and the Cheshire Formulary. Please find listed below the formulary status of Aciclover Agepha Eye Ointment 3% on both of those formularies:

Cheshire Formulary

Aciclovir Agepha Eye Ointment 3% is not included in our local medicine's formulary. The NHS Cheshire Formulary is available via the following link: <https://www.cheshireformulary.nhs.uk/>. Applications for the inclusion of a new medicine into the NHS Cheshire Formulary can be made by local healthcare professionals completing a New Pharmaceutical Product Request Form (NPR), available via the following link to the NHS Cheshire Formulary website: <https://www.cheshireformulary.nhs.uk/docs/default.asp?DocLib=FP&Sort=A>

Pan Mersey Formulary

Aciclovir eye ointment is not available on the Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee formulary. This formulary is publicly available and a link to the eye chapter is listed below for reference. <http://formulary.panmerseyapc.nhs.uk/chaptersSub.asp?FormularySectionID=11>. To request products to be considered for addition to the Pan Mersey formulary, a local health professional is required to apply using the forms available on the website via the following link: <https://www.panmerseyapc.nhs.uk/committee/forms-and-applications/>

NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB will continue to adopt and operate the former CCG approved formulary prescribing recommendations until a formal review of the recommendations is undertaken. A statement in regard to this can be found on our website via the following link: <https://www.cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk/about/how-we-work/commissioning-policies/>.

Work is underway to form a single Cheshire & Merseyside Area Prescribing Committee which in turn will consider a single formulary. Timelines for completion of the forming of the new committee are yet to be agreed.