

Area Prescribing Group report

Date: Friday 06 March 2026 **Quorate:** Yes

The items in this report are supported by the area prescribing group (APG) and approval by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB) is detailed below.

All document links provided for any CMAPG recommendations can be found in the [Cheshire and Merseyside formulary](#) which will also be updated to reflect these changes.

The legacy Cheshire formulary, and the legacy Pan Mersey APC website and formulary are now closed. Legacy documents are available by using the search function of the [Cheshire and Merseyside formulary](#).

CMAPG governance documents are hosted on the [Prescribing](#) section of the NHS Cheshire and Merseyside website.

Please note there may be items that have been considered by APG but not yet approved by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB. Items will be reported in the month that they are approved.

New medicines NICE TAs

Proposal	Notes	Financial implications	Approval
Delgocitinib for treating moderate to severe chronic hand eczema RAG designation: Red APG subgroup: 14 Nov 2025 APG: 05 Dec 2025	Date of NICE TA publication: 05 Nov 2025 Approval for implementation: 90 days Deadline for implementation: 03 Feb 2026 Red RAG rating in formulary, in line with NICE TA1107 . In-tariff drug with	The estimated cost of implementing NICE TA1107 is £6,250 to £7,500 in 2025-26 (part-year cost), and £150,000 in 2026-27. This is based on assumptions within the NICE resource impact template, at the Patient Access Scheme (PAS) discounted price, using estimated patient numbers from dermatology services across Cheshire and Merseyside.	MOP: 18 December 2025, clinically supported by MOP group. 19 March 2026, approved by ICB Executive Committee.

Proposal	Notes	Financial implications	Approval
	<p>patient access scheme discount, for specialist use only.</p> <p>Delgocitinib cream is a new second-line treatment option, alongside phototherapy and oral alitretinoin, for adults with moderate to severe chronic hand eczema when topical corticosteroids have not worked or are not suitable. Its topical formulation and one-year shelf life provide practical advantages over systemic therapies.</p> <p>There is a significant financial implication for providers as delgocitinib is an in-tariff drug.</p>		

New medicines other

Proposal	Notes	Financial implications	Approval
<p>Drospirenone for contraception</p> <p>RAG designation: Green</p> <p>APG subgroup: 09 Jan 2026</p> <p>APG: 06 Feb 2026</p>	<p>Drospirenone is progestogen-only pill (POP) with an extended pill-taking window of 24 hours, but higher cost compared to standard formulary options.</p> <p>Drospirenone is recommended as a fourth-line option for contraception.</p> <p>A grey RAG has been added to the formulary for any off-label use.</p>	<p>The estimated cost of implementing drospirenone for contraception is £14,501 in 2025-26 (part-year cost), and £174,011 in 2026-27.</p>	<p>MOP: 19 February 2026, clinically supported by MOP group.</p> <p>19 March 2026, approved by ICB Executive Committee.</p>

Formulary and guidelines

Proposal	Notes	Financial implications	Approval
<p>Management of COPD - guideline</p> <p>RAG designation: Various</p> <p>APG subgroup: 17 Feb 2026</p> <p>APG: 06 Mar 2026</p>	<p>This guidance has been developed by input from NHS England Cheshire and Merseyside Respiratory Network and local COPD experts. It is based on current NICE guidance, NICE CKS COPD and GOLD guidance.</p> <p>The guidance is intended for persons with a confirmed diagnosis of COPD hence diagnosis is not covered in any detail. Incorporates lower cost spacer device EasyChamber in place of AeroChamber.</p>	<p>The guidance will not give rise to any cost increase over already existing prescribing trends.</p>	<p>MOP: 19 March 2026, approved by MOP group.</p>
<p>Tadalafil 5mg and 2.5mg for daily treatment of erectile dysfunction – addition to formulary</p> <p>RAG designation: Green</p> <p>APG subgroup: 20 Jan 2026</p> <p>APG: 06 Feb 2026</p>	<p>Included as a second line alternative where ‘on demand’ treatment is not suitable, with a restriction on 2.5mg strength only being prescribed when 5mg strength is not tolerated as it is significantly more expensive.</p>	<p>Uncertainty whether use is already at steady state given existing levels of prescribing or whether change in formulary would increase it further.</p>	<p>MOP: 19 February 2026, clinically supported by MOP group.</p> <p>19 March 2026, approved by ICB Executive Committee.</p>

Antimicrobials

Proposal	Notes	Financial implications	Approval
<p>Primary care management of common infections in children</p> <p>RAG designation: not applicable</p> <p>APG subgroup: 10/12/2026</p>	<p>New antimicrobial prescribing guidance for primary care management of infections in children. Currently limited to a list of common infections,</p>	<p>None expected.</p> <p>Treatment is already established with drugs that are commonly in use.</p>	<p>MOP: 19 March 2026, approved by MOP group.</p>

Proposal	Notes	Financial implications	Approval
APG: 06/02/2026	recommendations for treating other infections will be developed.		
Candidiasis (oral) RAG designation: not applicable. APG subgroup: 11/02/2026 APG: 06/03/2025	Update to existing guidance in line with national recommendations. Notable increase in dose and duration of oral fluconazole for treatment for extensive or severe infection.	None expected. The updated maximum dose of fluconazole costs £9.46 compared to £1.60 for the previous maximum dose. It was not possible to quantify what proportion of cases of oral candidiasis would be extensive or severe enough to warrant the maximum dose.	MOP: 19 March 2026, approved by MOP group.

Actioned items for noting

Proposal	Notes	Financial implications	Approval
Teplizumab vial to delay the onset of Stage 3 type 1 diabetes RAG designation: Grey APG subgroup: 13 Feb 2026 APG: 06 Mar 2026	A grey RAG designation has been assigned pending publication of the NICE TA	N/A	Noted
Tezepelumab injection for chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyps RAG designation: Grey APG subgroup: 13 Feb 2026 APG: 06 Mar 2026	A grey RAG designation has been assigned pending publication of the NICE TA	N/A	Noted

Proposal	Notes	Financial implications	Approval
<p>Mepolizumab injection for COPD</p> <p>RAG designation: Grey</p> <p>APG subgroup: 13 Feb 2026</p> <p>APG: 06 Mar 2026</p>	<p>A grey RAG designation has been assigned pending publication of the NICE TA</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>Methylphenidate modified-release chewable tablets for ADHD</p> <p>RAG designation: Grey</p> <p>APG subgroup: 13 Feb 2026</p> <p>APG: 06 Mar 2026</p>	<p>A grey RAG designation has been assigned pending application for use</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>Potassium citrate modified-release tablets for kidney stones and hypocitraturia or chronic calcium oxalate stones; recurrent uric acid lithiasis with or without calcium lithiasis and cystine lithiasis; renal tubular acidosis with calcium nephrolithiasis</p> <p>RAG designation: Grey</p> <p>APG subgroup: 13 Feb 2026</p> <p>APG: 06 Mar 2026</p>	<p>A grey RAG designation has been assigned pending application for use</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>Oral ivermectin for scabies</p> <p>RAG designation: Grey</p> <p>APG subgroup: 11/02/2026</p> <p>APG: 06/03/2025</p>	<p>A temporary grey RAG for ivermectin for scabies has been assigned pending subgroup review.</p>	<p>Added in response to unplanned cost pressure. Updated status to be specifically shared with colleagues in community pharmacy.</p>	<p>Noted</p>

APG reports

Proposal	Notes	Financial implications	Approval
NICE TA adherence checklist January 2026	For noting	N/A	MOP: Noted