Area Prescribing Group report

Date: Friday 01 December 2023 **Quorate**: Yes

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

Document links provided for any APG recommendations are temporarily hosted on the legacy Pan Mersey APC website as a pragmatic solution until such time as a Cheshire and Merseyside APG website is available. The legacy Cheshire formulary will also be updated to reflect these changes.

CMAPG governance documents are now hosted on the new Prescribing section of the NHS Cheshire and Merseyside website, which is currently being developed

New medicines NICE TAs

Proposal	Notes	Approval
Baricitinib for treating severe alopecia areata **RAG designation**: BLACK **APG subgroup**: 10 Nov 2023 **APG**: 01 Dec 2023	**Date of NICE TA publication**: 25 Oct 2023 **Approval for implementation**: N/A **Deadline for implementation**: N/A Statement in line with TA926. NICE does not recommend baricitinib for treating severe alopecia areata in adults. A Black RAG rating will be assigned in the formulary with a link to the NICE TA.	Clinically supported and approved by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Group 14/12/2023.

APG administration provided by Midlands and Lancashire Commissioning Support Unit.

Proposal	Notes	Approval
Dapagliflozin and empagliflozin for treating chronic heart failure with preserved or mildly reduced ejection fraction **RAG designation**: AMBER RECOMMENDED **APG subgroup**: 10 Nov 2023 **APG**: 01 Dec 2023	**Date of NICE TA publication**: 01 Nov 2023 **Approval for implementation**: 30 days **Deadline for implementation**: 01 Dec 2023 Statement in line with TA929. The 30-day implementation deadline has not been met. A multiple prescribing statement has been produced by the subgroup and incorporates the dapagliflozin statement (TA902), which was approved by the ICB on 19 Sep 2023. A concern was raised at the APG meeting that the pre-prescribing checklist is not being followed when specialists provide a recommendation to primary care. There is no additional cost impact expected for empagliflozin as the NICE Resource Impact Template assumes an equal split between dapagliflozin (TA902) and empagliflozin (TA929) and costs are currently the same for both drugs.	Clinically supported and approved by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Group 14/12/2023. 30 day deadline not being met noted by ICB MOP Group and acknowledged previously by ICB Medical Directorate.
Rimegepant for treating migraine **RAG designation**: AMBER RECOMMENDED **APG subgroup**: 10 Nov 2023 **APG**: 01 Dec 2023	**Date of NICE TA publication**: 18 Oct 2023 **Approval for implementation**: 90 days **Deadline for implementation**: 16 Jan 2024 Statement in line with TA919. The APG did not support the proposed green RAG designation. It was agreed to assign a temporary amber recommended RAG with a view to moving to a green RAG in the future when the accompanying Walton Centre headache pathway has	Clinically supported by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Group 14/12/2023. Escalated within ICB for approval decision in line with Standing Financial Instructions (SFI) and Scheme of Reservation and Delegation (SORD) for the ICB. Approved by the ICB Medical Director 18/12/2023.

Proposal	Notes	Approval
	been updated and additional information to support prescribing is available. Based on NICE assumptions of 3.5 migraine episodes per month (one tablet for each episode), the annual cost of treatment with rimegepant for acute migraine is £542 per patient. NICE expect the resource impact of implementing the recommendations in England will be less than £8,800 per 100,000 population which equates to £237,600 for the Cheshire and Merseyside population.	

New medicines other

Proposal	Notes	Approval
Atogepant tablets for preventing migraine **RAG designation**: GREY **APG subgroup**: 10 Nov 2023 **APG**: 01 Dec 2023	For noting. A grey RAG has been assigned pending publication of the NICE TA.	Clinically supported and approved by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Group 14/12/2023.
Calcifediol capsules for treatment and prevention of vitamin D deficiency in adults, and as an adjunct to osteoporosis therapy in patients with or at risk of vitamin D deficiency **RAG designation**: GREY **APG subgroup**: 10 Nov 2023 **APG**: 01 Dec 2023	For noting. A grey RAG has been assigned pending an application for use.	Noted by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Group 14/12/2023.

Proposal	Notes	Approval
Spesolimab infusion for generalised pustular psoriasis flares **RAG designation**: GREY **APG subgroup**: 10 Nov 2023 **APG**: 01 Dec 2023	For noting. A grey RAG has been assigned pending publication of the NICE TA.	Noted by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Group 14/12/2023.
Tirzepetide injection for weight management **RAG designation**: GREY **APG subgroup**: due 08 Dec 2023 **APG**: 01 Dec 2023	For noting. A grey RAG has been assigned pending publication of the NICE TA.	Noted by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Group 14/12/2023.

Formulary and guidelines

Proposal	Notes	Approval
Melatonin in persistent chronic sleep disorders in adults and children - change to brands in formulary **RAG designation**: Cheshire: PURPLE – shared care Merseyside: AMBER – initiated **APG subgroup**: 21 Nov 2023 **APG**: 01 Dec 2023	The APG meeting heard that further consideration was required about implementation – to answer the question of how this can be rolled out. Formulary changes required are: • *Circadin*® m/r 2mg tablets removed with addition of generic melatonin m/r 2mg tablets in its place. • Melatonin liquids removed with addition of *Ceyesto*® 1mg/ml oral liquid	Clinically supported and approved by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Group 14/12/2023.

Proposal	Notes	Approval
	• Addition of *Adaflex*® 1mg, 2mg, 3mg, 4mg, 5mg tablets • Change of RAG designation of unlicensed capsules from Red to Black, with comment in formulary that capsules may continue to be prescribed for existing patients where due to individual patient factors changing to Adaflex® or Ceyesto® 1mg/ml oral liquid cannot be achieved and capsules may be prescribed on a case-by-case basis. Retention of amber retained in Wirral for use in children who have a feeding tube that has previously been blocked by melatonin m/r (temporary position pending second phase review). Overarching RAG designations in the legacy Cheshire and Merseyside formularies will remain as they currently are until further review. A process is ongoing to harmonise a prescribing statement, treatment pathway, prescribing support information and RAG designation (phase 2). Formulary changes to enable use of less expensive formulations has been proposed prior to harmonisation (Phase 1) as this is an ICB priority. Across Cheshire and Merseyside there are potential cost savings of up to £820,000 annually that could be realised by the prescribing of less expensive preparations of melatonin.	

APG governance documents

Title	Notes	Approval
Minor formulary amendment form RAG change form New medicine application form November 2023	For noting. Re-drafted for usability. Grouped in the same domains used in the Decision Support Summary, borrowed from the IFR process, of appropriateness, clinical effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, ethics and affordability. APG discussed the benefit from CEG support and the need for comms at launch.	Noted by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Group 14/12/2023.

APG reports

Title	Notes	Approval
NICE TA adherence checklist October 2023	For noting	Noted by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Group 14/12/2023.

Carried forward

Proposal	Notes	Approval
Bimekizumab for treating active psoriatic arthritis **RAG designation**: RED **APG subgroup**: 11 Oct 2023 **APG**: 03 Nov 2023	**Date of NICE TA publication**: 04 October 2023 **Approval for implementation**: 30 days **Deadline for implementation**: 03 November 2023 Red RAG rating to be assigned in formulary, in line with NICE TA916. Bimekizumab is another treatment option for psoriatic arthritis and is available at a similar or lower cost to existing treatment options. Based on the NICE Resource Impact Statement, costs are expected to be less than £8,800 per 100,000 population, which equates to £237,600 for the Cheshire and Merseyside population.	Clinically supported by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Group 23/11/2023. Escalated within ICB for approval decision in line with Standing Financial Instructions (SFI) and Scheme of Reservation and Delegation (SORD) for the ICB. 30 day deadline not being met noted by ICB MOP Group and acknowledged previously by ICB Medical Directorate. Approved by the ICB Medical Director 18/12/2023.
Bimekizumab for treating axial spondyloarthritis **RAG designation**: RED **APG subgroup**: 11 Oct 2023 **APG**: 03 Nov 2023	**Date of NICE TA publication**: 11 October 2023 **Approval for implementation**: 30 days **Deadline for implementation**: 10 November 2023 Red RAG rating to be assigned in formulary, in line with NICE TA918. Bimekizumab is another treatment option for active ankylosing spondylitis in adults and is available at a similar cost to existing treatment options. Based on the NICE Resource Impact Statement, costs are expected to be less than £8,800 per 100,000 population, which equates to £237,600 for the Cheshire and Merseyside population.	Clinically supported by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Group 23/11/2023. Escalated within ICB for approval decision in line with Standing Financial Instructions (SFI) and Scheme of Reservation and Delegation (SORD) for the ICB. 30 day deadline not being met noted by ICB MOP Group and acknowledged previously by ICB Medical Directorate. Approved by the ICB Medical Director 18/12/2023.

Proposal	Notes	Approval
Mirikizumab for treating moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis **plus** High cost drug treatment pathway - inflammatory bowel disease in adults **RAG designation**: RED **APG subgroup**: 11 Oct 2023 **APG**: 03 Nov 2023	**Date of NICE TA publication**: 25 October 2023 **Approval for implementation**: 30 days **Deadline for implementation**: 24 November 2023 Red RAG rating to be assigned in formulary, in line with NICE TA925. Mirikizumab is another treatment option for ulcerative colitis in adults and is available at a similar or lower cost to existing treatment options. Although the cost per dose is the same for the IV infusion and SC maintenance dose, healthcare resource would required for extended induction and re-induction therapy. The IBD pathway has been updated to include mirikizumab. Based on the NICE Resource Impact Statement, costs are expected to be less than £8,800 per 100,000 population, which equates to £237,600 for the Cheshire and Merseyside population.	Clinically supported by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Group 23/11/2023. Escalated within ICB for approval decision in line with Standing Financial Instructions (SFI) and Scheme of Reservation and Delegation (SORD) for the ICB. 30 day deadline not being met noted by ICB MOP Group and acknowledged previously by ICB Medical Directorate. Approved by the ICB Medical Director 18/12/2023.
Semaglutide injection (Wegovy®▼) for managing overweight and obesity **RAG designation**: RED **APG subgroup**: 11 Oct 2023 **APG**: 03 Nov 2023	**Date of NICE TA publication**: 08 March 2023. Implementation period began when semaglutide (Wegovy®) became commercially available from 04 September 2023. **Approval for implementation**: 90 days **Deadline for implementation**: 03 December 2023. Red statement in line with NICE TA875. Semaglutide (Wegovy®) is only recommended for use within a specialist weight management service and is not for GP prescribing.	Clinically supported by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Group 23/11/2023. Escalated within ICB for approval decision in line with Standing Financial Instructions (SFI) and Scheme of Reservation and Delegation (SORD) for the ICB. Approved by ICB Board 30/11/2023 as detailed in ICB Statement: Wegovy™ access in Cheshire and Merseyside

Proposal	Notes	Approval
	Cheshire and Merseyside APG recognise that there is inequitable access to weight management services across Cheshire and Merseyside and it is understood that NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB has a dedicated task and finish group to consider the impact of implementing this TA on the commissioning of the clinical pathway. *Costs on the statement were correct at the time of APG consideration, however NICE has subsequently updated the resource impact template for NICE TA875. Ongoing discussions are taking place about the cost of implementing this NICE TA.*	
Tofacitinib for treating active ankylosing spondylitis **RAG designation**: RED **APG subgroup**: 11 Oct 2023 **APG**: 03 Nov 2023	**Date of NICE TA publication**: 18 October 2023 **Approval for implementation**: 30 days **Deadline for implementation**: 17 November 2023 Red RAG rating to be assigned in formulary, in line with NICE TA920. Tofacitinib is additional, oral treatment option for ankylosing spondylitis in adults and is available at a similar or lower cost to existing treatment options. One declaration of interest was raised in NMSG for this item. This was not considered a significant conflict that required any other action than noting. Based on the NICE Resource Impact Statement, costs are expected to be less than £8,800 per 100,000 population, which equates to £237,600 for the Cheshire and Merseyside population.	Clinically supported by ICB Medicines Optimisation and Pharmacy Group 23/11/2023. Escalated within ICB for approval decision in line with Standing Financial Instructions (SFI) and Scheme of Reservation and Delegation (SORD) for the ICB. 30 day deadline not being met noted by ICB MOP Group and acknowledged previously by ICB Medical Directorate. Approved by the ICB Medical Director 18/12/2023.