

Thames Valley Priorities Committees

Buckinghamshire/Milton Keynes Priorities Committee

Policy Statement 42: Low Priority Prescribing List

Ref TV98

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The Buckinghamshire/Milton Keynes Priorities Committee recommends that treatments on the Low Priority Prescribing List should be considered a LOW PRIORITY.

Criteria for inclusion on the Low Priority Prescribing List

- Treatments used to treat minor ailments which are in nature self limiting
- Treatments which are classified as either 'P' or 'GSL' by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency
- Drugs classified as a 'drug of limited clinical value' as defined by the Audit Commission. A full list is available from the Prescription Pricing Authority on EPACT.
- Drugs classified as 'less suitable for prescribing' by the Joint Formulary Committee. These drugs are annotated in the BNF.

Doctors should prescribe the medicines which are needed by patients. However, many P and GSL medicines are intended to treat minor conditions which are self limiting and the treatments are of limited clinical value. Clinicians are asked to consider whether the treatment is clinically significant and likely to improve the health status of individual patients.

Low Priority Prescribing List

Treatment	Exception
Antihistamines for hay fever	
Cough mixtures	Unless for terminally ill
Nasal decongestants for hay fever or colds	
Vaginal thrush treatments	
Threadworm treatments	
Antacids for indigestion	
OTC Migraine treatments including Sumatriptan 50mg	
Wart treatments	Except for sexual health and GUM
Topical antifungals for athletes foot	
Mouth ulcers	Except for immunocompromised and terminally ill
Vitamin C and Multivitamins	
Head lice treatments	
Antiperspirants	
Cold sore treatments	
Sunscreens	
Topical NSAIDs	
Ear wax removers	
Minor acne	

NOTES:

1. Exceptional circumstances may be considered where there is evidence of significant health impairment and there is also evidence of the intervention improving health status.
2. This policy will be reviewed in the light of new evidence or guidance from NICE.
3. Buckinghamshire Priorities Committee policy statements can be viewed at www.buckinghamshire.nhs.uk/priorities