

Guidance for registered nurse prescribing in primary health and specialty teams



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Te Kaunihera Tapuhi o Aotearoa
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General information

2022 update to the medicines list

The Nursing Council of New Zealand (the Council) medicine list for registered nurse prescribing in primary health and specialty teams has been updated to reflect the Director-General of Health's latest gazette notice, published Wednesday, 23rd March 2022.

Overall, the new medicines list extends the ability of New Zealanders to access the medicines and care they need and enables registered nurse prescribers to prescribe in accordance with current guidelines. As such, the Council's list no longer includes 'pharmacy only' and 'general sales' medicines as these can be prescribed by all registered nurse prescribers. The list of controlled drugs, however, remains unchanged.

All registered nurse prescribers are expected to keep up to date with changes to medicines and their use. The Council's medicines list has been developed to be used in conjunction with Health Pathways or other clinical guidelines, the New Zealand Formulary, and the Community Pharmaceutical Schedule. The New Zealand Formulary (NZF) (<https://nzformulary.org>) and the New Zealand Formulary for Children (NZFC) (<https://www.nzfchildren.org.nz>) are independent evidence-based resources for healthcare professionals with up-to-date clinically validated medicines information, guidance on best practice, and consumer resources.

Purpose of registered nurse prescribing

Registered nurse prescribers use advanced knowledge and skills within a collaborative team environment to provide timely, appropriate, and equitable access to health care. Registered nurse prescribers diagnose and treat common conditions, i.e. asthma, diabetes, hypertension, and can prescribe medicines specified on the current medicines list as a 'designated' prescriber.

Legal framework

The Medicines Act 1981 allows regulations for 'designated' prescribers and other prescriber types. The Medicines (Designated Prescriber-Registered Nurses) Regulations 2016 and the Misuse of Drugs Regulations allow qualified registered nurses to prescribe specified prescription medicines and controlled drugs. The qualifications, training, assessment, and continuing competence requirements for registered nurses seeking to be authorised by the Council are set out in a gazette notice made under these regulations. The prescription medicines are specified by the Director-General of Health in a separate gazette notice and determine the current medicines list. Therefore, the gazetted medicines list outlines the medications that registered nurse prescribers can legally prescribe.

The role of the Nursing Council

The role of the Council is to protect the public by setting standards for nurses under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act (2003). Standards for registered nurse prescribing in primary health and specialty teams are set out in the following documents:

- Competencies for registered nurses (Nursing Council of New Zealand, 2007).
- Competencies for nurse prescribers (Nursing Council of New Zealand, 2016). These competencies describe activities that are essential for safe, appropriate, and effective prescribing including advanced assessment, clinical reasoning, monitoring, and communication skills. These competencies apply to all settings in which RN prescribers practice.
- The Code of Conduct for nurses (Nursing Council of New Zealand, 2012) which sets standards of professional behaviour for all nurses.

Guidance on the use of the medicines list

Guidance to the medicines list is published by the Council to support registered nurse prescribers to prescribe appropriately and effectively. Nurses are also advised to review the Council-published list of medicines before deciding whether to complete the preparation to become a prescriber.

This document is not intended to provide detailed guidance for every situation. Registered nurse prescribers must use their professional judgement to apply the Council's standards and guidance to their specific practice circumstances. To do this, registered nurse prescribers must recognise that prescribing is a complex task. It combines clinical expertise and the best available clinical evidence with people's preferences, priorities, values, experiences, culture, and beliefs.¹

Registered nurse prescribers must also prescribe within the limits of their professional expertise, competence (clinical, professional, and cultural), and ethical codes of practice. They are responsible and accountable for the care they provide, and for ensuring their prescribing practice is delivered in a manner that is clinically and culturally safe, as well as effective, to enable health equity.

Prescribing authority and the Council's medicines list

As per the legal framework, the Medicines (Designated Prescriber-Registered Nurses) Regulations 2016 and the Misuse of Drugs Regulations allow the Council to authorise suitably qualified registered nurses who are practising in primary health and specialty teams to prescribe specified prescription medicines and controlled drugs.

Registered nurse prescribers can also prescribe medicines of a 'lower' classification, i.e. pharmacy only and general sale medicines, within their level of competence and specific area of practice. While these medicines are available to the public to purchase from a pharmacy, some medicines are more affordable and thus more accessible via a prescription (see the NZF under each medicine monograph). As previously described, please note the Council's list no longer includes 'pharmacy only' and 'general sales' medicines as these can be prescribed by all registered nurse prescribers. The list of controlled drugs, however, remains unchanged.

Prescriptions are only subsidised if the medicine is included in the PHARMAC Community Pharmaceutical Schedule. Information on current subsidies can be found in the NZF under each medicine monograph.

Consumables and devices listed in Sections B to D or I in the Pharmaceutical Schedule and funded for use in the community are considered Community Pharmaceuticals and can be prescribed by Registered Nurse prescribers. Please view the Pharmac schedule of funded and part-funded consumables and devices. Some consumables and devices require a Special Authority application. The relevant prescriber type is listed within the Special Authority form.

Classification of medicines

As previously described, all registered nurse prescribers are required to keep up to date with changes to medicines and their use, including new medicines as they come on to the market and the potential for interactions between medicines among those who are living with multiple conditions.²

'Pharmacy only' medicines are only available for purchase from a pharmacy or on prescription.

'General sale' means the item can also be sold in a shop that is not a pharmacy, i.e. a supermarket. There may be restrictions on the formulation or number of tablets for sale depending on the classification and location (pharmacy or shop).

Controlled drugs have tighter controls designed to restrict access and reduce misuse under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975 (<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/regulation-health-and-disability-system/medicines-control/controlled-drugs>).

1 NZ Pharmacy Council (2021) Draft Guidance document for Pharmacist prescribers

2 UK Royal Pharmaceutical Society (2020) A Competency framework for all prescribers

Prescribing in partnership and within a collaborative team

Registered nurses prescribing in primary health and specialty teams must work within a collaborative team and prescribe medicines that are relevant to their area of practice and level of competence.

Members of the collaborative team have overlapping and complementary roles. Prescribing in partnership describes working in partnership both with the person, their whānau, and other health professionals to optimise health outcomes. Registered nurse prescribers have a responsibility to work collaboratively with their teams to ensure continuity of care to avoid fragmentation of care, as this is known to increase the risk of adverse medical events.

In a collaborative team, registered nurse prescribers work alongside other healthcare professionals; sharing responsibility for problem-solving and making decisions to formulate and carry out plans to provide healthcare.³ The registered nurse prescriber communicates prescribing decisions to other healthcare professionals caring for the same person and updates the health record in a timely manner.

A key feature of a collaborative team is the shared access to information about the person they are caring for, such as diagnosis, medication history, treatment plans, test results, and progress notes. This also includes ready access to the other team members in a timely manner. This ensures that the registered nurse prescriber has direct and up-to-date access to the necessary information about a person's medical history and medicines to enable them to make informed decisions about the person's treatment and care. In a collaborative team, the registered nurse prescriber plays an active part in the decision-making process with respect to initiating or changing a person's medicine, and their decisions and recommendations directly affect the person's medicine therapy.⁴

When a registered nurse prescriber continues the treatment prescribed by another prescriber, they are still professionally accountable and responsible for the prescribing decisions they make. They must make sure the medicine and the prescription are appropriate, meets the person's needs, and allows continuity of care for them (see also Continuation prescribing), thus enabling equitable health outcomes.

Continuation prescribing

The Council has indicated 'continuation prescribing' for a small number of medicines where the prescribing of such medicines is associated with ongoing dose adjustment. Prescribing decisions may require reassessment and refinement of pharmacotherapeutic management based on a person's clinical status, and associated side effects and/or adverse effects. The Council has used this term to avoid confusion as 'repeat prescribing' is often used to describe a process in primary care where a medical or mātanga tapuhi nurse practitioner signs a prescription for a person based on a previous consultation without seeing the person again.

These medicines must be initiated by an authorised prescriber, i.e. a medical practitioner or mātanga tapuhi nurse practitioner. As part of the pharmacotherapy care plan, the registered nurse prescriber may assume responsibility and authority for prescribing continuation of the medicine. The registered nurse prescriber is accountable for ongoing assessment and monitoring, re-ordering and/or making dose adjustments and referrals as needed, as part of the team-based care.

Funded medicines and unfunded medicines

Most medicines on the Council's list are subsidised and, as previously described, further information regarding currently funded medicines can be found in the NZF and in the PHARMAC Community Pharmaceutical Schedule (<https://pharmac.govt.nz/pharmaceutical-schedule/community-section-b/>).

3 O'Daniel M, Rosenstein AH. Professional Communication and Team Collaboration. In: Hughes RG, editor. Patient Safety and Quality: An Evidence-Based Handbook for Nurses. Rockville (MD): Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (US); 2008 Apr. Chapter 33. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK2637/#>

4 NZ Pharmacy Council (2021) Draft Guidance document for Pharmacist prescribers

Some 'Special Authority' medicines have been included as PHARMAC has indicated registered nurse prescribers' prescriptions for a medication requiring a Special Authority will only be subsidised if it is for a repeat prescription, i.e. after the initial prescription for Special Authority approval.

If a registered nurse prescriber prescribes an item **not** listed on the PHARMAC Pharmaceutical Schedule they should make the person aware that the entire cost will need to be met by them. The amount payable may vary between pharmacies.

There are also some items listed on the Schedule that are not **fully** subsidised, i.e. they carry a part charge. If the nurse prescribes a pharmaceutical from the medicines list that the Schedule indicates as not being fully subsidised, again they should make the person aware that there will be a cost to them that exceeds the usual co-payment (if a co-payment applies).

Controlled drugs

A registered nurse prescriber may prescribe the supply of some controlled medicines to a person under their care for a period of seven days. The Council requires that the registered nurse and/or the person must consult an authorised prescriber, i.e. medical practitioner or mātanga tapuhi nurse practitioner, for a longer supply of controlled medicines. Registered nurse prescribers are advised to always refer a person to a doctor or mātanga tapuhi nurse practitioner if they have any concerns about potential for addiction or abuse.

Section 24 of the Misuse of Drugs Act prohibits a registered nurse from prescribing “to a person who the prescriber has reason to believe is dependent on that or any controlled drug”.

Opioid substitute treatment

In 2018, changes were made to section 24 of the Misuse of Drugs Act to allow a registered nurse prescriber who has been authorised, in writing by a specified medical practitioner, to prescribe in specialist addiction teams (Section 20: Controlled Drugs). Buprenorphine with naloxone, diazepam, and oxazepam are on the list for this purpose. Methadone can also now be prescribed for this purpose under these conditions.

Please refer to:

- <https://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/legislation-and-regulation/changes-health-practitioner-status>
- <https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/new-zealand-practice-guidelines-opioid-substitution-treatment-2014>
- <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/regulation-health-and-disability-system/medicines-control/controlled-drugs>
- https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/1977/0037/latest/DLM56100.html?search=qs_act%40bill%40regulation%40deemedreg_controlled+drugs_resel_25_h&p=1

Resources

Appropriate current resources should be consulted by registered nurses prescribing in primary health and specialty teams including the New Zealand Formulary, best practice guidelines advice, specialty specific consensus guidelines, and/or expert opinion literature, Medsafe Prescriber Updates, and other online resources in New Zealand including NZF, Medsafe, MIMS gateway, PHARMAC, NZ Guidelines Group.

List of Medications

Medication	Category	Sub category	Route	Restrictions
Acarbose	Endocrine system	Antidiabetic drugs		
Aciclovir	Anti-infectives	Antivirals		Ocular restricted to ophthalmology specialist nurses
Aciclovir	Ophthalmology specialist nurse prescribing only	Antivirals		continuation
Adapalene	Dermatologicals	Topical retinoids and related preparations for acne		
Adrenaline	Emergency Use	Emergency Use		
Alfacalcidol	Gastrointestinal	Vitamins	Oral	
Allopurinol	Musculoskeletal system	Gout		
Amethocaine	Eye preparations	Local anaesthetics		Ophthalmic use only
Amitriptyline	Pain management	Neuropathic pain (Note for off label use only)		Neuropathic pain
Amlodipine	Cardiovascular	Calcium channel blocker	Oral, transdermal	continuation
Amoxicillin	Anti-infectives	Antibacterials - Systemic		
Amoxicillin with clavulanic acid	Anti-infectives	Antibacterials - Systemic	Oral	
Aprepitant	Central nervous system	Drugs used in nausea and vertigo		
Atenolol	Cardiovascular	Beta adrenoceptor blockers		
Atorvastatin	Cardiovascular	Lipid-modifying agents		continuation
Atovaquone with proguanil	Anti-infectives	Antimalarials		
Atropine sulfate	Eye preparations	Mydriatics and cycloplegics	Ocular	Ophthalmology specialist nurse prescribing only

Medication	Category	Sub category	Route	Restrictions
Azithromycin	Anti-infectives	Antibacterials - Systemic		
Beclometasone dipropionate	Allergies and Respiratory	Corticosteroids	Inhaled	
Bendroflumethiazide (Bendrofluazide)	Cardiovascular	Diuretics		
Benzathine benzylpenicillin	Anti-infectives	Antibacterials - Systemic		
Benzylpenicillin (Penicillin G)	Anti-infectives	Antibacterials - Systemic		
Betamethasone & fusidic acid	Skin	Topical corticosteroids and antibacterial preparations	Topical	
Betamethasone dipropionate	Dermatologicals	Topical corticosteroids		
Betamethasone valerate	Dermatologicals	Topical corticosteroids		
Betamethasone valerate	Dermatologicals	Scalp Preparations	Scalp application	
Betamethasone valerate with clioquinol	Dermatologicals	Topical corticosteroids		
Bezafibrate	Cardiovascular	Lipid-modifying agents		
Bimatoprost	Ophthalmology specialist nurse prescribing only	Glaucoma preparations		continuation
Bisoprolol fumarate	Cardiovascular	Beta adrenoceptor blockers		
Brimonidine + timolol	Ophthalmology specialist nurse prescribing only	Glaucoma preparations		continuation
Brinzolamide	Ophthalmology specialist nurse prescribing only	Glaucoma preparations		continuation
Budesonide	Allergies and Respiratory	Corticosteroids	Inhaled and nasal	
Budesonide with formoterol	Allergies and Respiratory	Bronchodilators		
Bumetanide	Cardiovascular	Diuretics		

Medication	Category	Sub category	Route	Restrictions
Buspirone	Anxiety and depression	Antianxiety and hypnotics		
Calcipotriol	Dermatologicals	Psoriasis and Eczema Preparations		continuation
Calcitriol	Nutrition & blood	Vitamins		
Candesartan	Cardiovascular	Angiotensin II antagonist		
Candesartan with hydrochlorothiazide	Cardiovascular	Angiotensin II antagonist		
Carbimazole	Endocrine system	Thyroid & antithyroid		
Carvedilol	Cardiovascular	Beta adrenoceptor blockers		
Cefaclor	Anti-infectives	Antibacterials - Systemic		
Cefazolin	Anti-infectives	Antibacterials - Systemic		
Ceftriaxone	Anti-infectives	Antibacterials - Systemic		
Cefuroxime	Anti-infectives	Antibacterials - Systemic		
Celecoxib	Musculoskeletal & joint diseases	Rheumatic diseases & gout		
Celiprolol	Cardiovascular	Beta adrenoceptor blockers		
Cephalexin	Anti-infectives	Antibacterials - Systemic		
Cetirizine	Allergies and Respiratory	Antihistamines	Oral	
Chloramphenicol	Eye Preparations	Ocular anti-infective	Eye ointment, eyedrops only	
Chlortalidone	Cardiovascular system	Diuretics		
Cilazapril	Cardiovascular	ACE inhibitors		
Cilazapril with hydrochlorothiazide	Cardiovascular	ACE inhibitors with diuretics		

Medication	Category	Sub category	Route	Restrictions
Citalopram	Anxiety and depression	Antidepressants		
Clarithromycin	Anti-infectives	Antibacterials - Systemic		
Clobetasone butyrate	Dermatologicals	Topical corticosteroids		
Clobetasol propionate	Dermatologicals	Topical corticosteroids		
Clonidine	Cardiovascular	Centrally acting antihypertensive	oral, transdermal	continuation
Clopidogrel	Cardiovascular system	Antiplatelet drugs		
Colecalciferol	Gastrointestinal	Vitamins	Oral	
Colestipol	Cardiovascular	Lipid-modifying agents		
Colestyramine	Cardiovascular	Lipid-modifying agents		
Cyclizine	Antinausea and vertigo agents	Antiemetics		
Cyclopentolate	Ophthalmology specialist nurse prescribing only	Mydriatics and cycloplegics		
Cyproterone acetate & ethinylestradiol	Obstetrics, gynaecology & urinary tract disorders	Contraceptives		
Dabigatran etexilate	Cardiovascular system	Anticoagulants & reversable agents		
Dalteparin	Cardiovascular	Antithrombotic agents		
Danthron with poloxamer	Gastrointestinal	Laxatives		Palliative care only; Only in combination
Desogestrel	Gynaecology and urinary	Contraceptives		
Dexamethasone		Anti-inflammatories		
Dexamethasone + neomycin sulfate + polymyxin B sulphate	Ophthalmology specialist nurse prescribing only	Anti-inflammatories		continuation
Dexamethasone with framycetin and gramicidin	Ear Preparations	Ear Preparations	Aural	
Diclofenac	Ophthalmology specialist nurse prescribing only	Anti-inflammatories		continuation

Medication	Category	Sub category	Route	Restrictions
Diclofenac	Pain management	Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory analgesics		Ocular forms restricted to ophthalmology specialist nurses only
Digoxin	Cardiovascular	Anti-arrythmics	Oral	continuation
Diltiazem	Cardiovascular	Calcium channel blocker	Oral	
Dipyridamole	Cardiovascular	Antithrombotic agents		
Disopyramide	Cardiovascular	Anti-arrythmics		continuation
Disulfiram	Treatment of Substance Dependence	Treatment of Substance Dependence		continuation
Domperidone	Anti-nausea and vertigo agents	Anti-nausea and vertigo agents	Oral	
Dornase alfa	Respiratory system	Mucolytics	Inhaled	
Dorzolamide	Ophthalmology specialist nurse prescribing only	Glaucoma preparations		continuation
Doxazosin	Cardiovascular	Alpha-adrenoceptor blockers		
Doxycycline	Anti-infectives	Antibacterials - Systemic	Oral	
Dulaglutide	Endocrine system	Antidiabetic drugs		
Empagliflozin	Endocrine system	Antidiabetic drugs		
Empagliflozin & metformin	Endocrine system	Antidiabetic drugs		
Enalapril	Cardiovascular	ACE inhibitors		
Enoxaparin	Cardiovascular	Antithrombotic agents		
Eplerenone	Cardiovascular system	Diuretics		continuation
Epoetin alfa	Cardiovascular	Erythropoietins		continuation
Epoetin beta	Cardiovascular	Erythropoietins		continuation
Erythromycin	Anti-infectives	Antibacterials - Systemic	Oral	
Escitalopram	Anxiety and depression	Antidepressants		

Medication	Category	Sub category	Route	Restrictions
Estriol (Oestriol)	Obstetrics, gynaecology & urinary tract disorders	Vaginal & vulval changes	Vaginal cream	
Ethinylestradiol with desogestrel	Gynaecology and urinary	Contraceptives		
Ethinylestradiol with drospirenone	Gynaecology and urinary	Contraceptives		
Ethinylestradiol with levonorgestrel	Gynaecology and urinary	Contraceptives		
Ethinylestradiol with norethisterone	Gynaecology and urinary	Contraceptives		
Etonogestrel	Gynaecology and urinary	Contraceptives		
Exenatide	Endocrine system	Antidiabetic drugs		
Ezetimibe	Cardiovascular system	Lipid regulating drugs		
Famciclovir	Anti-infectives	Antivirals		continuation
Febuxostat	Musculoskeletal & joint diseases	Rheumatic diseases & gout		continuation
Felodipine	Cardiovascular	Calcium channel blocker		
Flecainide acetate	Cardiovascular system	Anti-arrhythmic drugs		continuation
Flucloxacillin	Anti-infectives	Antibacterials - Systemic	Oral	
Flumetasone pivalate (with clioquinol)	Ear preparations	Ear preparations	Aural	
Fluocortolone with cinchocaine	Gastrointestinal	Antihaemorrhoidal preparations	Ointment/suppository	
Fluorescein sodium	Ophthalmology specialist nurse prescribing only	Diagnostic dyes		
Fluorescein sodium with lignocaine	Ophthalmology specialist nurse prescribing only	Diagnostic dyes		
Fluorometholone	Ophthalmology specialist nurse prescribing only	Anti-inflammatories		continuation
Fluoxetine	Anxiety and depression	Antidepressants		
Fluticasone	Allergies and respiratory	Corticosteroids	Inhaled	

Medication	Category	Sub category	Route	Restrictions
Fluticasone furoate and vilanterol	Respiratory system	Bronchodilators corticosteroids	Inhaled	
Fluticasone propionate	Allergies and respiratory	Nasal preparations, allergy prophylactics	Nasal	
Fluticasone with salmeterol	Allergies and respiratory	Corticosteroids	Inhaled	
Fluvoxamine	Anxiety and depression	Antidepressants		
Formoterol fumarate	Allergies and Respiratory	Bronchodilators		
Framycetin sulphate	Ear preparations	Ear preparations	Aural	
Furosemide (frusemide)	Cardiovascular	Diuretics		
Fusidic acid	Anti-infectives	Topical antibacterials		
Gabapentin	Pain management			
Ganciclovir	Ophthalmology specialist nurse prescribing only	Antivirals		continuation
Glecaprevir & pibrentasvir	Infections	Antiviral drugs		
Gliclazide	Diabetes	Oral hypoglycaemic agents		
Glipizide	Diabetes	Oral hypoglycaemic agents		
Glyceryl trinitrate	Cardiovascular	Nitrates	Sublingual and transdermal only	
Glycopyrronium	Respiratory system	Bronchodilators		
Haloperidol (note off label use)	Anti-nausea and vertigo agents	Anti-nausea and vertigo agents		Palliative care only, oral and injectable
Heparinised saline	Cardiovascular	Antithrombotic agents		
Hydrochlorothiazide	Cardiovascular	Diuretics		
Hydrocortisone	Dermatologicals	Topical corticosteroids		
Hydrocortisone	Endocrine system	Corticosteroids	Oral	
Hydrocortisone + natamycin + neomycin	Dermatologicals	Topical corticosteroids		

Medication	Category	Sub category	Route	Restrictions
Hydrocortisone acetate	Gastrointestinal system	Chronic bowel disorders	Rectal	
Hydrocortisone and paraffin liquid and lanolin	Dermatologicals	Topical corticosteroids		
Hydrocortisone butyrate	Dermatologicals	Topical corticosteroids		
Hydrocortisone butyrate	Dermatologicals	Scalp Preparations	Scalp application	
Hydroxychloroquine sulfate	Musculoskeletal & joint diseases	Rheumatic diseases & gout		continuation
Hyoscine hydrobromide	Anti-nausea and vertigo agents	Anti-nausea and vertigo agents	Transdermal and injectable	
Ibuprofen	Pain management	Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory analgesics		
Imiquimod cream	Skin	Preparations for warts & calluses		continuation
Immunoglobulins	Immunoglobulins			Prescribed in accordance with IMAC or NZ Blood Service guidelines
Indacaterol	Respiratory system	Bronchodilators		
Indapamide	Cardiovascular	Diuretics		
Insulins	Endocrine system			
Ipratropium	Allergies and Respiratory	Bronchodilators		
Ipratropium bromide	Allergies and Respiratory	Nasal preparations, allergy prophylactics	Nasal	
Isosorbide mononitrate	Cardiovascular	Nitrates		
Ivermectin	Anti-infectives	Antiparasitics	Oral	
Ketoprofen	Pain management	Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory analgesics		
Labetalol	Cardiovascular	Beta adrenoceptor blockers	Oral	

Medication	Category	Sub category	Route	Restrictions
Lansoprazole	Gastrointestinal	Proton pump inhibitors		
Latanoprost	Ophthalmology specialist nurse prescribing only	Glaucoma preparations		continuation
Letrozole	Malignant disease & immunosuppressant	Sex hormones and hormone antagonists in malignant diseases	Oral	Continuation
Levonorgestrel	Gynaecology and urinary	Contraceptives		
Levothyroxine sodium	Endocrine system	Thyroid & antithyroid drugs		
Lidocaine [lignocaine]	Pain management	Local anaesthetics	Gel, cream, injection, oral	
Lisinopril	Cardiovascular	ACE inhibitors		
Loperamide	Gastrointestinal	Antidiarrhoeals	Oral	
Losartan potassium	Cardiovascular	Angiotensin II antagonist		
Losartan potassium with hydrochlorothiazide	Cardiovascular	Angiotensin II antagonist		
Medroxyprogesterone	Gynaecology and urinary	Contraceptives		
Mefenamic acid	Pain management	Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory analgesics		
Mefloquine	Anti-infectives	Antimalarials		
Melatonin	Anxiety and depression	Antianxiety and hypnotics		
Mesalazine	Gastrointestinal system	Chronic bowel disorders	Oral or rectal	
Metformin	Diabetes	Oral hypoglycaemic agents		
Methoxyflurane	Pain management	Inhalation anaesthetic		
Methyldopa	Cardiovascular	Centrally acting antihypertensive		continuation
Methylprednisolone	Dermatologicals	Topical corticosteroids		
Metoclopramide	Anti-nausea and vertigo agents	Anti-nausea and vertigo agents	Oral and injectable	

Medication	Category	Sub category	Route	Restrictions
Metoprolol	Cardiovascular	Beta adrenoceptor blockers	Oral	
Metronidazole	Anti-infectives	Antibacterials - Systemic	Oral and rectal	
Mifepristone	Obstetrics, gynaecology & urinary tract disorders	Drugs used in obstetrics and medical abortion		
Misoprostol	Gastrointestinal, obstetrics, gynaecology & urinary tract disorders	Drugs used in obstetrics and medical abortion		
Mometasone furoate	Dermatologicals	Topical corticosteroids		
Montelukast	Allergies and Respiratory	Leukotriene receptor antagonist		
Mupirocin	Anti-infectives	Topical antibacterials		
Nadolol	Cardiovascular	Beta adrenoceptor blockers		
Naloxone	Emergency Use	Emergency Use		
Naltrexone	Treatment of Substance Dependence	Treatment of Substance Dependence		continuation
Naproxen	Pain management	Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory analgesics		
Nedocromil sodium	Allergies and Respiratory	Cromoglycate and related therapy		
Nefopam	Pain management	Non-opioid Analgesics	Oral	
Nitrofurantoin	Anti-infectives	Antibacterials - Systemic		
Norethisterone	Gynaecology and urinary	Contraceptives		
Norfloxacin	Anti-infectives	Antibacterials - Systemic		
Nortriptyline	Pain management	Neuropathic pain (Note for off label use only)		Neuropathic pain
Nystatin	Gastrointestinal	Oropharyngeal Anti-infectives		

Medication	Category	Sub category	Route	Restrictions
Olopatadine	Sensory organs	Corticosteroids & other anti-inflammatory preparations	Eye drops	
Olsalazine sodium	Gastrointestinal system	Chronic bowel disorders	Oral	
Omeprazole	Gastrointestinal	Proton pump inhibitors		
Ondansetron	Anti-nausea and vertigo agents	Anti-nausea and vertigo agents		
Ornidazole	Anti-infectives	Antibacterials - Systemic		
Orphenadrine	Musculoskeletal system	Muscle relaxant	Oral	
Oseltamivir (Influenza)	Anti-infectives	Antivirals		
Oxybuprocaine	Ophthalmology specialist nurse prescribing only	Ocular anaesthetic		
Oxybutynin	Gynaecology and urinary	Urinary agents		
Pancreatin	Gastrointestinal system	Intestinal secretions		
Pantoprazole	Gastrointestinal	Proton pump inhibitors		
Paracetamol	Pain management	Non-opioid Analgesics		
Paracetamol with codeine	Pain management	Opioid analgesic		
Paroxetine	Anxiety and depression	Antidepressants		
Perindopril	Cardiovascular	ACE inhibitors		
Phenoxymethylpenicillin (Penicillin V)	Anti-infectives	Antibacterials - Systemic		
Phenytoin	Central nervous system	Antiepileptic drugs		continuation
Pilocarpine	Ophthalmology specialist nurse prescribing only	Glaucoma preparations		continuation
Pioglitazone	Endocrine system	Antidiabetic drugs		
Pizotifen	Pain management	Antimigraine		
Podophyllotoxin	Dermatologicals	Wart preparation	Solution	
Pravastatin	Cardiovascular	Lipid-modifying agents		
Prednisolone	Endocrine	Corticosteroids		

Medication	Category	Sub category	Route	Restrictions
Prednisolone acetate	Ophthalmology specialist nurse prescribing only	Anti-inflammatories		continuation
Prednisone	Anti-inflammatory (including respiratory)	Corticosteroids		
Probenecid	Musculoskeletal system	Gout		
Procaine penicillin	Anti-infectives	Antibacterials - Systemic		
Prochlorperazine	Anti-nausea and vertigo agents	Anti-nausea and vertigo agents	Oral, buccal, rectal, and injectable	
Promethazine	Allergies and Respiratory	Antihistamines	Oral and injectable	
Proxymetacaine hydrochloride	Ophthalmology specialist nurse prescribing only	Ocular anaesthetic		
Quinapril	Cardiovascular	ACE inhibitors		
Quinapril with hydrochlorothiazide	Cardiovascular	ACE inhibitors with diuretics		
Ranitidine	Gastrointestinal	H2 antagonist		
Rifampicin	Anti-infectives	Antibacterials - Systemic		continuation
Rivaroxaban	Cardiovascular system	Anticoagulants & reversable agents		
Rizatriptan	Pain management	Antimigraine		
Rosuvastatin	Cardiovascular system	Lipid regulating drugs		
Roxithromycin	Anti-infectives	Antibacterials - Systemic		
Sacubitril & valsartan	Cardiovascular system	Hypertension & heart failure		continuation
Salbutamol	Allergies and Respiratory	Bronchodilators	Inhaled	
Salbutamol with ipratropium	Allergies and Respiratory	Bronchodilators		
Salmeterol	Allergies and Respiratory	Bronchodilators		
Sertraline	Anxiety and depression	Antidepressants		
Simvastatin	Cardiovascular	Lipid-modifying agents		

Medication	Category	Sub category	Route	Restrictions
Sodium cromoglycate	Allergies and respiratory	Cromoglycate and related therapy	Inhaled	
Sodium valproate	Pain management and anti epileptic			Contraindicated in pregnancy
Solifenacin	Gynaecology and urinary	Urinary agents		
Spirolactone	Cardiovascular	Diuretics		
Sulfamethoxazole with trimethoprim	Anti-infectives	Antibacterials - Systemic		
Sulfasalazine	Musculoskeletal system	Drugs that suppress the rheumatic disease process		
Sulindac	Pain management	Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory analgesics		
Sumatriptan	Pain management	Antimigraine		
Tamoxifen	Malignant disease & immunosuppressant	Sex hormones and hormone antagonists in malignant diseases	Oral	
Tenoxicam	Pain management	Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory analgesics		
Terazosin	Cardiovascular	Alpha-adrenoceptor blockers		
Terbutaline	Allergies and Respiratory	Bronchodilators		
Tiaprofenic acid	Pain management	Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory analgesics		
Ticagrelor	Cardiovascular system	Antiplatelet drugs		
Timolol	Ophthalmology specialist nurse prescribing only	Glaucoma preparations		continuation
Tiotropium	Allergies and Respiratory	Bronchodilators		
Tobramycin	Eye Preparations	Ocular anti-infective	Eye drops	
Tobramycin	Infections	Antibacterial drugs	Inhaled	
Tramadol	Pain management	Opioid analgesic	Oral	
Trandolapril	Cardiovascular	ACE inhibitors		

Medication	Category	Sub category	Route	Restrictions
Tranexamic acid	Cardiovascular	Anti-haemorrhagic		
Travoprost	Ophthalmology specialist nurse prescribing only	Glaucoma preparations		continuation
Tretinoin	Dermatologicals	Topical retinoids and related preparations for acne	External	
Triamcinolone + neomycin sulfate + gramicidin + nystatin	Dermatologicals	Topical corticosteroids		
Triamcinolone + neomycin sulfate + gramicidin + nystatin	Ear Preparations	Ear Preparations	Ear Drop	
Triamcinolone acetonide	Allergies and Respiratory	Nasal Preparations, Allergy Prophylactics	Nasal Spray	
Triamcinolone acetonide	Dermatologicals	Topical corticosteroids		
Trimethoprim	Anti-infectives	Antibacterials - Systemic		
Tropicamide	Ophthalmology specialist nurse prescribing only	Mydriatics and cycloplegics		
Umeclidinium	Respiratory system	Bronchodilators		
Umeclidinium and vilanterol	Respiratory system	Bronchodilators		
Vaccines	Vaccines			Prescribed in accordance with IMAC guidelines
Valaciclovir	Anti-infectives	Antivirals		
Varenicline	Central nervous system	Drugs used in substance dependence		
Venlafaxine	Central nervous system	Antidepressant		continuation
Vildagliptin	Endocrine system	Antidiabetic drugs		
Vildagliptin & metformin	Endocrine system	Antidiabetic drugs		
Warfarin	Cardiovascular	Antithrombotic agents		
Zopiclone	Anxiety and depression	Antianxiety and hypnotics		

List of Controlled Medicines

Controlled Medicines	Category	Sub category	Route	Restrictions
Alprazolam	Hypnotics	Benzodiazepines		
Clonazepam	Hypnotics	Benzodiazepines		For anxiety and panic disorder only (note off label use)
Diazepam	Hypnotics	Benzodiazepines	Oral	Continuation prescribing in specialist addiction teams
Lorazepam	Hypnotics	Benzodiazepines		
Lormetazepam	Hypnotics	Benzodiazepines		
Nitrazepam	Hypnotics	Benzodiazepines		
Oxazepam	Hypnotics	Benzodiazepines		Continuation prescribing in specialist addiction teams
Temazepam	Hypnotics	Benzodiazepines		
Triazolam	Hypnotics	Benzodiazepines		
Buprenorphine	Opioids		Transdermal	
Buprenorphine with naloxone	Opioids			Continuation prescribing in specialist addiction teams
Codeine	Opioids			
Dihydrocodeine	Opioids			
Fentanyl	Opioids		Transdermal	
Methadone	Opioids		Oral	Continuation prescribing in specialist addiction teams
Morphine	Opioids			