

In Scotland, a newly licensed medicine is routinely available in a health board only after it has been:

- accepted for use in NHS Scotland by the Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC), and
- accepted for use by the health board's Area Drug and Therapeutics Committee (ADTC).

All medicines accepted by SMC are available in Scotland, but may not be considered 'routinely available' within a particular health board because of available services and preferences for alternative medicines.

'Routinely available' means that a medicine can be prescribed by the appropriately qualified person within a health board.

Each health board has an ADTC. The ADTC, Grampian Area Drug and Therapeutics Committee, is responsible for advising NHS Grampian health board on all aspects of the use of medicines.

Medicines routinely available within NHS Grampian are usually included in the Grampian Joint Formulary. The formulary is a list of medicines for use in the health board that has been agreed by the ADTC in consultation with local clinical experts. It offers a choice of medicines for healthcare professionals to prescribe for common medical conditions. A formulary can help improve safety as prescribers are likely to become more familiar with the medicines in it and also helps make sure that standards of care are consistent across the health board.

How does the health board decide which new medicines to make routinely available for patients?

The ADTC in a health board will consider national and local guidance before deciding whether to make a new medicine routinely available.

What national guidance does the ADTC consider?

- SMC advice: The SMC considers newly licensed medicines and advises health boards in Scotland whether they should be available. When SMC considers a new medicine for the NHS in Scotland, it looks at:
 - how well the medicine works,
 - which patients might benefit from it,
 - whether it is as good or better than medicines the NHS already uses to treat the medical condition, and
 - whether it is good value for money.
- In the table below, national guidance usually refers to SMC advice. Links to SMC advice for individual medicines are also included in the table.
- In some cases, other agencies may also provide guidance on how medicines should be used. For example, Healthcare Improvement Scotland issues alerts to advise if National Institute for Health and Care Excellence Multiple Technology Appraisals (NICE MTAs) are applicable in Scotland.

What local guidance does the ADTC consider?

- Advice from local clinical experts who would be expected to prescribe a particular medicine, where that service is available in a health board.

Why is a particular medicine not routinely available in NHS Grampian?

- This is usually because the medicine is not recommended for use in NHS Scotland by the SMC.
- The medicine may not be routinely available in a health board, particularly in smaller health boards, because there is not a suitable specialist who may use the medicine.
- There may also be differences as to which medicines are preferred in health boards. Sometimes SMC accepts more than one medicine for treating a specific medical condition. Clinical experts in each health board consider whether to add new medicines to their formulary and advise the ADTC. Sometimes it is agreed that established medicines are a better choice than new medicines.

What happens if a particular medicine is not routinely available in NHS Grampian?

- If a medicine is not routinely available and not included in the Grampian Joint Formulary and there are no suitable alternatives on the formulary, a healthcare professional can request to prescribe a medicine that is not on the formulary if they think you will benefit from using it. All health boards have procedures in place to consider requests when a healthcare professional feels a medicine that is not on the formulary would be right for a particular patient.

The table below lists NHS Grampian's latest decisions on medicines.

If you need more information on medicines decisions in NHS Grampian, please email gram.formularyteam@nhs.scot.

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This document is also available in large print and other formats and languages, upon request. Please call NHS Grampian Corporate Communications on (01224) 551116 or (01224) 552245.

Name	Unique identifier	Condition being treated	NHS Grampian decision	Date of decision
apalutamide 60mg film-coated tablets (Erleada®)	2579	In adults for the treatment of non-metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (nmCRPC) who are at high risk of developing metastatic disease.	Routinely available in line with national guidance, SMC 2579 https://www.scottishmedicines.org.uk/media/7699/apalutamide-erleada-abb-final-june-2023-for-website.pdf	21/05/2024
Asacol® 400mg MR tablets (mesalazine)		For the: - treatment of mild to moderate acute exacerbations of ulcerative colitis and maintenance of remission - maintenance of remission in Crohn's ileo-colitis	This medicine is now withdrawn from use/discontinued	21/05/2024
Daktacort® 2%/1% w/w cream (miconazole/hydrocortisone)		For the topical treatment of: - Inflamed dermatoses where infection by susceptible organisms and inflammation co-exist, e.g. intertrigo and infected eczema. - Moist or dry eczema or dermatitis including atopic eczema, primary irritant or contact allergic eczema or seborrhoeic eczema including that associated with acne. - Intertriginous eczema including inflammatory intertrigo, perianal and genital dermatitis. - Organisms susceptible to miconazole are dermatophytes and pathogenic yeasts (e.g. Candida spp.). Also, many Gram-positive bacteria including most strains of Streptococcus and Staphylococcus.	This medicine is now withdrawn from use/discontinued (30g, POM pack)	21/05/2024
dupilumab 300mg solution for injection in pre-filled syringe, pre-filled pen (Dupixent®)	2598	For the treatment of adults with moderate-to-severe prurigo nodularis (PN) who are candidates for systemic therapy.	Routinely available in line with national guidance, SMC 2598 https://www.scottishmedicines.org.uk/media/8109/dupilumab-dupixent-final-jan-2024-for-website.pdf	21/05/2024

Name	Unique identifier	Condition being treated	NHS Grampian decision	Date of decision
eladocagene exuparvovec 2.8 × 10 ¹¹ vector genomes (vg)/0.5 mL solution for infusion (Upstaza®)	2586	For the treatment of patients aged 18 months and older with a clinical, molecular, and genetically confirmed diagnosis of aromatic L-amino acid decarboxylase (AADC) deficiency with a severe phenotype.	Not routinely available in NHS Grampian. If local need identified, treatment is available through the National Services Scotland Ultra-orphan medicines Risk Share Scheme	21/05/2024
finerenone 10mg, 20mg film-coated tablets (Kerendia®)		For the treatment of chronic kidney disease (stage 3 and 4 with albuminuria) associated with type 2 diabetes in adults. Restriction: as add-on to optimised standard care; this should include, unless they are unsuitable, the highest tolerated licensed doses of: - angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors or angiotensin-receptor blockers (ARBs) and - sodium–glucose cotransporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitors	Routinely available in line with local guidance	21/05/2024
Klean-Prep® oral powder 69g sachets sugar free		For colonic lavage prior to diagnostic examination or surgical procedures requiring a clean colon, e.g., colonoscopy, barium enema or colonic resection.	This medicine is now withdrawn from use/discontinued	21/05/2024
nivolumab 10mg/mL concentrate for solution for infusion (Opdivo®)	2503	As monotherapy for the adjuvant treatment of adults with muscle invasive urothelial carcinoma (MIUC) with tumour cell PD-L1 expression ≥1%, who are at high risk of recurrence after undergoing radical resection of MIUC.	Routinely available in line with national guidance, SMC 2503 https://www.scottishmedicines.org.uk/media/7404/nivolumab-opdivo-final-jan-2023-for-website.pdf	21/05/2024
pembrolizumab 25mg/mL concentrate for solution for infusion (Keytruda®)	2526	As monotherapy for the adjuvant treatment of adults and adolescents aged 12 years and older with Stage IIB or IIC melanoma and who have undergone complete resection.	Routinely available in line with national guidance, SMC 2526 https://www.scottishmedicines.org.uk/media/7505/pembrolizumab-keytruda-final-march-2023-for-website.pdf	21/05/2024
ranibizumab 10mg/mL solution for injection (Ongavia®)		In line with current SMC and Healthcare Improvement Scotland advice for the reference ranibizumab product [Lucentis®].	Routinely available in line with local guidance	21/05/2024

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remdesivir 100mg powder for concentrate for solution for infusion (Veklury®)	2550	Treatment of COVID-19 in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adults and paediatric patients (at least 4 weeks of age and weighing at least 3kg) with pneumonia requiring supplemental oxygen (low- or high-flow oxygen or other non-invasive ventilation at start of treatment) • adults and paediatric patients (weighing at least 40kg) who do not require supplemental oxygen and who are at increased risk of progressing to severe COVID-19 SMC restriction: as an option for treating COVID-19 in hospitals in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adults only if they have a high risk of serious illness (risk factors as defined in section 5 of NICE’s technology appraisal of nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir, sotrovimab and tocilizumab for treating COVID-19). • babies, children and young people, only if they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - are aged 4 weeks to 17 years and weigh at least 3kg, and have pneumonia and need supplemental oxygen, or - weigh at least 40kg and have a high risk of serious illness (risk factors as defined in section 5 of NICE’s technology appraisal guidance on nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir, sotrovimab and tocilizumab for treating COVID-19) 	Not routinely available as the ADTC is waiting for further advice from local clinical experts	21/05/2024
ruxolitinib 15mg/g cream (Opzelura®)	2634	For the treatment of non-segmental vitiligo (NSV) with facial involvement in adults and adolescents from 12 years of age.	Not routinely available as not recommended for use in NHS Scotland, SMC 2634 https://www.scottishmedicines.org.uk/media/8317/ruxolitinib-topical-opzelura-final-april-2024-amended-080524-for-website.pdf	21/05/2024

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Symbicort® Turbohaler® 200micrograms/ 6micrograms/ inhalation, inhalation powder	2622	As reliever therapy for adults and adolescents (12 years and older) with mild asthma. SMC restriction: for use in patients who would otherwise receive low dose inhaled corticosteroid (ICS) maintenance therapy plus short-acting beta-2 adrenoceptor agonist (SABA) as needed.	Routinely available in line with local guidance	21/05/2024
tixagevimab 150mg/mL plus cilgavimab 150mg/mL solution for injection (Evusheld®)	2558	Treatment of COVID-19 in adults who do not require supplemental oxygen and who are at increased risk of progressing to severe COVID-19.	Not routinely available as not recommended for use in NHS Scotland, NICE TA971 https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/TA971	21/05/2024
zanubrutinib 80mg hard capsules (Brukinsa®)	2671	In combination with obinutuzumab for the treatment of adult patients with refractory or relapsed follicular lymphoma (FL) who have received at least two prior systemic therapies.	Not routinely available as not recommended for use in NHS Scotland, SMC 2671 https://www.scottishmedicines.org.uk/media/8312/zanubrutinib-brukinsa-non-sub-final-april-2024-for-website.pdf	21/05/2024