

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.

Image courtesy of Baitong333 - image ID: 100128772/ [FreeDigitalPhotos.net](https://www.freepressphotos.net)

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
atovaquone 750mg/5mL oral suspension	451/22	[Off-label use] as a second-line treatment option for the prevention of <i>Pneumocystis jiroveci</i> pneumonia in adults for whom co-trimoxazole is not effective, not tolerated or contraindicated. Restriction: prescribing restricted to the haematology service.	Routinely available in line with local guidance	15/10/2024
BioXtra® Dry Mouth Gel Mouthspray		Children and adults for the symptomatic treatment of dry mouth.	Routinely available in line with local guidance	15/10/2024
cemiplimab 350mg concentrate for solution for infusion (Libtayo®)	2724	In combination with platinum-based chemotherapy for the first-line treatment of adult patients with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) expressing PD-L1 (in $\geq 1\%$ of tumour cells), with no EGFR, ALK or ROS1 aberrations, who have: - locally advanced NSCLC who are not candidates for definitive chemoradiation, or - metastatic NSCLC.	Not routinely available as not recommended for use in NHS Scotland, SMC 2724 https://scottishmedicines.org.uk/media/8639/cemiplimab-libtayo-non-sub-final-sept-2024-for-website.pdf	15/10/2024
drospirenone 4mg film-coated tablets (Slynd®)	2725	Contraception.	Not routinely available as not recommended for use in NHS Scotland, SMC 2725 https://scottishmedicines.org.uk/media/8640/drospirenone-slynd-non-sub-final-sept-2024-for-website.pdf	15/10/2024
faricimab 120mg/mL solution for injection (Vabysmo®)	2685	Treatment of adult patients with visual impairment due to macular oedema secondary to retinal vein occlusion (branch RVO or central RVO).	Not routinely available as the ADTC is waiting for further advice from local clinical experts	15/10/2024

Name	Unique identifier	Condition being treated	NHS Grampian decision	Date of decision
finerenone 10mg, 20mg film-coated tablets (Kerendia®)		<p>For the treatment of chronic kidney disease (stage 3 and 4 with albuminuria) associated with type 2 diabetes in adults.</p> <p>Restriction: as add-on to optimised standard care; this should include, unless they are unsuitable, the highest tolerated licensed doses of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors or angiotensin-receptor blockers (ARBs) and - sodium–glucose cotransporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitors 	Routinely available in line with local guidance	15/10/2024
ivermectin 3mg tablets		<p>For the treatment of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - chronic gastrointestinal strongyloidiasis (anguillulosis) - crusted scabies (Norwegian scabies) 	Routinely available in line with local guidance	15/10/2024
ivermectin 3mg tablets		<p>For the treatment of human sarcoptic scabies (excluding crusted scabies). Treatment is justified when the diagnosis of scabies has been established clinically and/or by parasitological examination. Without formal diagnosis treatment is not justified in case of pruritus.</p> <p>Restriction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - if topical treatments have not resolved symptoms and there is evidence of ongoing infestation with the presence of burrow etc. - if topical treatments are hard to access/unavailable - in conditions where topical treatments may be difficult to apply effectively, e.g., care homes and other circumstances where treatment of a large number of people is required 	Routinely available in line with local guidance	15/10/2024

Name	Unique identifier	Condition being treated	NHS Grampian decision	Date of decision
nivolumab 10mg/mL concentrate for solution for infusion (Opdivo®)	2726	In combination with cisplatin and gemcitabine for the first-line treatment of adult patients with unresectable or metastatic urothelial carcinoma.	Not routinely available as not recommended for use in NHS Scotland, SMC 2726 https://scottishmedicines.org.uk/media/8642/nivolumab-opdivo-final-sept-2024-for-website.pdf	15/10/2024
ocrelizumab 300mg concentrate for solution for infusion, 920mg solution for injection (Ocrevus®)		For the treatment of: - relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis (RRMS) in adults with active disease defined by clinical or imaging features - adults with early primary progressive multiple sclerosis (PPMS) in terms of disease duration and level of disability, and with imaging features characteristic of inflammatory activity	Routinely available in line with local guidance	15/10/2024
olive oil B.P.		For infantile seborrhoeic dermatitis (cradle cap).	Not routinely available as there is a local preference for alternative medicines	15/10/2024
pembrolizumab 25mg/mL concentrate for solution for infusion (Keytruda®)	2689	As monotherapy for the adjuvant treatment of adults with non-small cell lung carcinoma who are at high risk of recurrence following complete resection and platinum-based chemotherapy. SMC restriction: adults whose tumours express programmed death-ligand 1 (PD-L1) with less than 50% (0 to 49%) tumour proportion score (TPS).	Not routinely available as the ADTC is waiting for further advice from local clinical experts	15/10/2024
pentamidine isethionate 300mg powder for solution for injection/infusion	451/22	[Unlicensed route/off-label use] by inhalation as a second-line treatment option for the prevention of <i>Pneumocystis jiroveci</i> pneumonia in adults for whom co-trimoxazole is not effective, not tolerated or contraindicated. Restriction: prescribing restricted to the haematology service.	Routinely available in line with local guidance	15/10/2024

Name	Unique identifier	Condition being treated	NHS Grampian decision	Date of decision
relugolix 120mg film-coated tablets (Orgovyx®)	2678	- for the treatment of adult patients with advanced hormone-sensitive prostate cancer - for the treatment of high-risk localised and locally advanced hormone dependent prostate cancer in combination with radiotherapy - as neo-adjuvant treatment prior to radiotherapy in patients with high-risk localised or locally advanced hormone dependent prostate cancer.	Not routinely available as the ADTC is waiting for further advice from local clinical experts	15/10/2024
rezafungin acetate 200mg powder for concentrate for solution for infusion (Rezzayo®)	2659	For the treatment of invasive candidiasis in adults. SMC restriction: use should be on the advice of local microbiologists or specialists in infectious disease.	Not routinely available as the ADTC is waiting for further advice from local clinical experts	15/10/2024
ritlecitinib tosylate 50mg hard capsules (Litfulo®)	2610	For the treatment of severe alopecia areata in adults and adolescents 12 years of age and older.	Routinely available in line with national guidance, SMC 2610 https://scottishmedicines.org.uk/media/8228/ritlecitinib-litfulo-final-march-2024-for-website.pdf	15/10/2024
secukinumab 150mg, 300mg solution for injection in pre-filled pen, pre-filled syringe (Cosentyx®)	2592	For use in adults with active moderate to severe hidradenitis suppurativa (acne inversa) for whom adalimumab is contraindicated or otherwise unsuitable, including those who have failed to respond or have lost response to prior adalimumab treatment.	Routinely available in line with national guidance, SMC 2592 https://scottishmedicines.org.uk/media/8106/secukinumab-cosentyx-final-jan-2024-for-website.pdf	15/10/2024
selinexor 20mg film-coated tablets (Nexpovio®)	2673	In combination with dexamethasone for the treatment of multiple myeloma in adult patients who have received at least four prior therapies and whose disease is refractory to at least two proteasome inhibitors, two immunomodulatory agents and an anti-CD38 monoclonal antibody, and who have demonstrated disease progression on the last therapy.	Not routinely available as the ADTC is waiting for further advice from local clinical experts	15/10/2024

Name	Unique identifier	Condition being treated	NHS Grampian decision	Date of decision
selinexor 20mg film-coated tablets (Nexpvio®)	2674	In combination with bortezomib and dexamethasone for the treatment of adult patients with multiple myeloma who have received at least one prior therapy. SMC restriction: restricted for use in patients with lenalidomide-refractory multiple myeloma, and where an anti-CD38 monoclonal antibody is not appropriate.	Not routinely available as the ADTC is waiting for further advice from local clinical experts	15/10/2024
ustekinumab 130mg/26mL concentrate for solution for infusion, 45mg/0.5mL solution for injection vials, 45mg/0.5mL, 90mg/1mL solution for injection in pre-filled syringe (Wezenla®)		In line with the current SMC and Healthcare Improvement Scotland advice for the reference ustekinumab product [Stelara®].	Routinely available in line with local guidance	15/10/2024
voxelotor 500mg film-coated tablets (Oxbryta®)	2626	Treatment of haemolytic anaemia due to sickle cell disease (SCD) in adults and paediatric patients 12 years of age and older as monotherapy or in combination with hydroxycarbamide.	This medicine is now withdrawn from use/discontinued as a precautionary measure while a review of the benefits and risks is carried out.	15/10/2024