



Medicines of Low and Limited Clinical Value (MOLLCV)

Classification - Items of low clinical effectiveness, where there is a lack of robust evidence of clinical effectiveness or there are significant safety concerns.

The Scottish Government has published [Medicines – Achieving Value and Sustainability in Prescribing Guidance](#). This document is intended to promote the effective use of medicines and minimise unwarranted variation in prescribing practices across Scotland.

ACTIONS

SHARE – Ensure all prescribers are aware of these national recommendations

STOP – do not prescribe MOLLCV for any new patients

REVIEW – existing patients prescribed MOLLCV should be reviewed and deprescribed, where safe to do so

Background Information:

- This guidance aims to reduce the use of low value medicines and ensure the effective use of medicines with limited clinical value throughout NHS Scotland.
- This guidance was produced by an expert working group of the Value and Sustainability Prescribing Group and is predominately based on the NHS England policy guidance: [Items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care](#) and the NHS Wales [Medicines identified as low priority for funding in NHS Wales](#) documents. It also includes items which have been requested by Health Boards within NHS Scotland.
- Prescribers are encouraged to have due regard for this guidance when considering prescribing the items included.
- MOLLCV prescribing is being reviewed and monitored at national and local levels.

Scottish Government MOLLCV Recommendations:

The recommendations for medicines of low and limited clinical value are grouped under two categories:

1. **LOW CLINICAL VALUE** -Items where NO prescribing is appropriate (no exceptions apply)

The policy recommendations apply to all items in the low value category:

- do not initiate
- deprescribe where safe in individuals currently prescribed this item

2. **LIMITED CLINICAL VALUE** -Items where prescribing MAY be appropriate but ONLY in exceptional circumstances.

The following recommendations apply to items in the limited value category:

- prescribe ONLY if the item is for an exception named in this guidance or no other item or intervention is clinically appropriate or available
- consider deprescribing where safe and appropriate in individuals currently prescribed this item. Continued prescribing of these medicines should be subject to regular review.

Local Action:

NHS Grampian currently have over 700 patients prescribed medicines of low clinical value, and many more prescribed items of limited clinical value, noting some of these will be for recognised exceptions.

The Medicines Management Team are currently reviewing this guidance and local prescribing. Practices who are currently prescribing low clinical value items will be contacted to request patient

review and deprescribing. Ongoing work will be done regarding medicines of limited clinical value to highlight where use may be appropriate.



Prescribing Snapshot

Details from guidance regarding medicines classifications:

Low Clinical Value – Do Not Prescribe

Medicine
Co-proxamol
Omega-3
Tramadol 37.5mg/paracetamol 325mg combination product
Oxycodone/naloxone combination product
Glucosamine and chondroitin
Aliskiren
Lutein and antioxidants
Perindopril arginine
Probiotics (VSL#3 and Vivomixx)
Homeopathy
Herbal treatments
Minocycline for acne
Rubefacients (exc. capsaicin and topical NSAIDs)
Doxazosin modified release
Dipipanone/cyclizine combination

Further information regarding the classification and rational of these products as low clinical value, along with details of patients prescribing these products is currently being shared with relevant practices to request review and safe deprescribing.

To date information has been shared regarding co-proxamol, omega-3 and tramadol/paracetamol with further to follow.

There should be no new prescribing of any of these items.

Limited Clinical Value – only to be prescribed for exceptions noted in the guidance

Medicine
Alimemazine
Ascorbic acid
Bath and shower emollients
Buprenorphine patches
Chloral hydrate/cloral betaine
Dosulepin
Fentanyl immediate release
Lidocaine patches
Liothyronine
Nefopam
Trimipramine

Prescribing snapshots highlighting where it may be appropriate to prescribe these products will be issued to practices to aid ongoing use and review of current prescribing. This will include liaison with specialist services as necessary.

Full details are available at [Items of Low and Limited Clinical Value - Medicines - achieving value and sustainability in prescribing: guidance - gov.scot](#)

Other items classified in MOLLCV Guidance

Medicine	Comments
Blood Glucose Monitoring Strips	Discussing with MCN to ensure cost effective product choices within parameters of guidance (BGTS<£10/50 / needles<£5/100). Further information will be prepared and issued to practices.
Insulin Pen Needles	
Antimicrobials	Ensuring appropriate stewardship and length of treatment – including 5 days course for respiratory tract infections/ 3 day coursed for uncomplicated UTIs in woman. Further information to be prepared and issued in conjunction with the Antimicrobial Management Team.