

New Medicine Service - Medicines List

Four therapy areas / conditions were selected to be included in the initial rollout of the New Medicine Service. These are:

- Asthma and COPD
- Type 2 diabetes
- Antiplatelet / anticoagulant therapy
- Hypertension

The rationale for selection of the therapy areas/conditions was twofold: first, the evidence from the original proof of concept research, and secondly on the basis that these are areas where community pharmacists are best able to demonstrate the value of the service. The four therapy areas/conditions were signed off by Department of Health Ministers.

Criteria used to select the medicines eligible for the New Medicine Service

- The medicines selected must be those where it is practical and relevant for the community pharmacist to select the patient and intervene with the New Medicine Service.
- The medicines selected must be relatively straightforward for the community pharmacist to identify (using PMR for example) and ascertain the condition for which they are being prescribed.
- The medicines selected must be those where community pharmacists have the skills, knowledge and information that can be applied to support the patient and improve their outcomes.
- The medicines selected must be those where the community pharmacist will be likely to reduce harm by intervening with the New Medicine Service.
- The medicines selected must be those where the intervention of the community pharmacist with the New Medicine Service is highly likely to have a demonstrable improvement in outcome for the patient.

The medicines selected for inclusion in the NMS are those that are listed in the chapters/sub-sections, detailed below, of the current edition of the British National Formulary (www.bnf.org).

Asthma and COPD

BNF Reference	BNF subsection descriptor
3.1.1	Adrenoceptor agonists
3.1.2	Antimuscarinic bronchodilators
3.1.3	Theophylline
3.1.4	Compound bronchodilator preparations
3.2	Corticosteroids
3.3	Cromoglicate and related therapy, leukotriene receptor antagonists and phosphodiesterase type-4 inhibitors

Type 2 Diabetes

BNF Reference	BNF subsection descriptor
6.1.1.1	Short acting insulins (where the community pharmacist can determine that the medicine has been newly prescribed for a patient with Type 2 diabetes)
6.1.1.2	Intermediate and long acting insulins (where the community pharmacist can determine that the medicine has been newly prescribed for a patient with Type 2 diabetes)
6.1.2	Antidiabetic drugs

Antiplatelet/Anticoagulant therapy

BNF Reference	BNF subsection descriptor
2.8.2	Oral anticoagulants
2.9	Antiplatelet drugs

Hypertension

BNF Reference	BNF subsection descriptor
2.2.1	Thiazides and related diuretics
2.4	Beta-adrenoceptor blocking drugs (where the community pharmacist can determine that the medicine has been newly prescribed for a patient with hypertension)
2.5.1	Vasodilator antihypertensive drugs
2.5.2	Centrally acting antihypertensive drugs
2.5.4	Alpha-adrenoceptor blocking drugs (where the community pharmacist can determine that the medicine has been newly prescribed for a patient with hypertension)
2.5.5	Drugs affecting the renin-angiotensin system (where the community pharmacist can determine that the medicine has been newly prescribed for a patient with hypertension)
2.6.2	Calcium-channel blockers (where the community pharmacist can determine that the medicine has been newly prescribed for a patient with hypertension)

It is assumed that in most cases, the pharmacist will be able to determine the condition for which the new medicine is being prescribed from the PMR or by asking the patient directly.