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HSC Board	Chief Executive Director of Commissioning Director of Integrated Care Assistant Director of Pharmacy and Medicines Management Assistant Director General Medical Services	For information and onward cascade to relevant staff involved in prescribing, supply or administration arrangements for specialist medicines
Public Health Agency	Director of Public Health/Medical Director Director of Nursing and Allied Health Professionals	For information and onward cascade to relevant staff involved in prescribing, supply or administration arrangements for specialist medicines
HSC Trusts	Chief Executives Medical Directors: for cascade to relevant staff Directors of Acute Services / Clinical Services Directors of Nursing: for cascade to relevant staff Chair of Drug & Therapeutics Committee Directors of Pharmaceutical Services/Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management Interface Pharmacists Specialist Medicines	For information and onward cascade to relevant staff involved in prescribing, supply or administration arrangements for specialist medicines
Other	Chief Executive, Regulation & Quality Improvement Authority Hospices LMC Chair PCCNI Chair PSNI Chief Executive GPCNI Chair UCA Chair	For information

12<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear colleague,

**Prescribing and supply arrangements for specialist medicines in NI: Update to the Red Amber list (September 2017)**

**Section 1. Changes to the Red Amber list.**

The Regional Group on Specialist Medicines have agreed the following changes to the Red Amber List:

Drug	Adjudicated indication	Status*
Glecaprevir + pibrentasvir (Maviret <sup>®</sup> )	Hepatitis C	Red
Inotuzumab ozogamicin (Besponsa <sup>®</sup> )	Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy	Red
Nusinersen (Spinraza <sup>®</sup> )	Spinal Muscular Atrophy	Red

**\* This advice does not take into account any commissioning decisions associated with the potential use of a medicine in either primary or secondary care.**

A revised edition of the Red Amber List has been published to reflect these changes and can be accessed at the Interface Pharmacists Network Specialist Medicines website [www.ipnsm.hscni.net](http://www.ipnsm.hscni.net)

## **Section 2. Endorsement of Regional Shared Care Guidelines and GP Information Sheets for Amber Medicines.**

Shared-care arrangements for specialist medicines enable GPs to prescribe amber list specialist medicines by providing the GP with the necessary information and support to do so safely and effectively.

The Group have endorsed Guidelines for the following medicines to support effective shared-care arrangements, and provide consistency in approach. Implementation should now be brought forward at local level.

<b>Drug</b>	<b>Indication(s)</b>	<b>Link to Guidance</b>
Tacrolimus	Non-transplant indications	<a href="#">LINK</a>
Sodium phenylbutyrate	Urea cycle disorder	<a href="#">LINK</a>
Glycerol phenylbutyrate	Urea cycle disorder	<a href="#">LINK</a>

### **Background**

The Regional Group on Specialist Medicines, a subcommittee of the HSCB medicine management forum, provides advice to prescribers regarding the prescribing and supply of specialist medicines in Northern Ireland using a red and amber 'traffic light' system.

Guidance in the Red / Amber List serves ONLY to define where clinical and prescribing responsibility for the listed medicines should lie in terms of governance and safety.

- Inclusion in this list does NOT imply the drug has been accepted for use via Managed Entry, does NOT imply endorsement of use, and does NOT take account of the cost implications of use of a particular medicine.
- Prescribers should use this list in conjunction with guidance on the [Managed entry process for medicines](#), and the [NI formulary](#).

**Red List Drugs:** prescribing responsibility should remain with the consultant or specialist clinician and the supply organised via the hospital pharmacy.

**Amber List Drugs:** prescribing responsibility should be transferred from secondary to primary care with the agreement of the patient's GP and when shared care arrangements have been established.

Implementation of the red/amber list is facilitated by The Interface Pharmacist Network Specialist Medicines (IPNSM), and helps to ensure:

- Safer systems, with the responsibility for prescribing specialised medicines lying with the most appropriate practitioner.
- Better communication between primary and secondary care leading to better working relationships and enhanced patient care.
- Consistency in approach across Northern Ireland.

On behalf of the Regional Group on Specialist medicines we would request that when you receive this, you cascade it on as indicated above. If you are prescribing specialist medicines, the Red Amber list will be relevant to you. To view the [Red Amber list](#), Regional Shared Care Guidelines, and the contact details of the IPNSM visit [www.ipnsm.hscni.net](http://www.ipnsm.hscni.net) .

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter

Yours sincerely

Lynn Keenan.

Ms Lynn Keenan  
Regional Group on Specialist Medicines