

Appliance Formulary Development

£868 million annually is spent on prescribed appliances in England, Scotland, Wales and the Isle of Man NHSBSA (April 2022 to March 2023) and Public Health Scotland (March 2022 to February 2023).

Local wound care, continence and stoma formularies provide a means of improving the clinical appropriateness and cost-effectiveness of appliances prescribed or supplied by the NHS, and they can help to reduce waste by ensuring that the correct products are prescribed in appropriate quantities. This briefing aims to support appliance formulary development and maintenance.

Key recommendations

- Develop local appliance formularies for wound care, continence and stoma care that reflect local needs, reduce variation in prescribing and support the selection of appropriate, cost-effective products.
- Recognise that, although there is overlap in how such appliance formularies may be developed, the clinical areas they cover are distinct and different approaches may be needed.
- Assemble a formulary decision-making group with a defined mix of members who have the range of skills and expertise needed to undertake all necessary activities.
- Implement a whole systems approach to formulary development, rather than producing a simple list of medicines or appliances
- Include clinical groups and networks, patients or patient representative groups, local people and communities, product manufacturers where appropriate, and other relevant decision-making groups in local formulary stakeholder engagement.
- When calculating the cost of appliances, consider all aspects of the patient pathway and not simply the unit cost of the product alone.
- Regularly update, review and maintain local formularies to ensure they meet the needs of patients.
- Define how formulary adherence and other indicators will be monitored, and the frequency of monitoring.
- Practices should review how appliances are managed within their repeat prescribing system and make improvements where change is needed.
- Organisations contemplating procuring appliances via a non-prescription route must consider a number of factors in assessing their cost-effectiveness. These include the potential need to go out to tender, the implications for local community pharmacies, VAT implications, ordering, delivery, storage and monitoring.
- Organisations who have (or are considering having) a manufacturer-sponsored continence or stoma nurse working locally should ensure that the agreement does not promote conflicts of interest that could lead to poor practice. For example, the specialist nurse should not be required to recommend the sponsor's products in preference to other clinically appropriate appliances and the arrangement should not require that patients are recommended to use a particular dispensing service.

Additional resources

- An example of a wound dressings audit and a wound care product evaluation form that could be adapted for local use: Best Practice Statement: Development of a Formulary. Wounds UK, Aberdeen, 2008. <https://www.wounds-uk.com/resources/details/best-practice-statement-development-formulary>
- PrescQIPP continence and stoma resources: <https://www.prescqipp.info/our-resources/webkits/continence-and-stoma/>
- PrescQIPP wound management products and elasticated garments resources. <https://www.prescqipp.info/our-resources/webkits/wound-care/>
- PrescQIPP. Bulletin 292. Repeat prescriptions. Version 2.0. July 2021. <https://www.prescqipp.info/our-resources/bulletins/bulletin-292-repeat-prescriptions/>
- PrescQIPP. Care homes resources. <https://www.prescqipp.info/our-resources/webkits/care-homes/>
- PrescQIPP. Bulletin 273: Commissioning - Medicines in service redesign. Version 2.0. September 2020. <https://www.prescqipp.info/our-resources/bulletins/bulletin-273-commissioning-medicines-in-service-redesign/>
- PrescQIPP data subscribers can find information about local and national spend in the areas of continence, stoma and wound care products in the data section of the PrescQIPP website: <https://www.prescqipp.info/our-resources/data-and-analysis/clinical-snapshots/>

References

1. NICE. Developing and updating local formularies. Medicines practice guideline [MPG1]. Published March 2014. Last updated October 2015. <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/mpg1>

Additional resources available	Bulletin	https://www.prescqipp.info/our-resources/bulletins/bulletin-329-appliance-formulary-development/
	Tools	

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