



## **Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group**

REF: FOI 043

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19 June 2019

Dear Requestor

### **Request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000**

On 28 May 2019 you sent a request, made under the Freedom of Information Act, relating to the prescription of paracetamol tablets and suspensions, ibuprofen tablets and topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. I now provide this information as an attachment.

I trust that this is the information you require and that your request has been fully discharged.

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Please note that, under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations, if you wish to publish or otherwise use this information besides for your own means, you will need to seek our permission to do so.

If you are unhappy with this response, you are entitled to request an internal review of our decision, handled where possible by a member of staff not directly involved in the initial decision. If you wish to request such a review, please write direct to the Data Protection Officer, NHS Dorset, Ground Floor, West Wing, Vespasian House, Barrack Road, Dorchester DT1 1TG. We aim to deal with requests for internal review within three weeks of receipt, although where the issues involved are very complicated this period may be extended up to a total of six weeks.

If you have queries about this response, please do not hesitate to contact me quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

***Signature Removed***

**Paddy Baker**

Data Protection Officer

NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group

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**Q1:**

Do you have a formulary used by primary care prescribers? If so, what is the status of paracetamol tablets and suspensions, ibuprofen tablets and topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs with respect to minor conditions associated with pain, discomfort and fever?

**Response:**

Pan-Dorset formulary available here: <http://www.dorsetformulary.nhs.uk/default.asp>

**Paracetamol tablets** – Green first line (self-care for primary care indicated)

**Paracetamol suspensions** – Green first line (self-care for primary care indicated)

**Ibuprofen tablets** – Green first line (self-care for primary care indicated)

**Ibuprofen 5% gel** – Green (self-care for primary care indicated)

The following topical NSAIDs are listed as non-formulary:

- Algesal (self-care for primary care indicated)
- Diclofenac (Mobigel<sup>®</sup>, Voltarol Emugel<sup>®</sup>, Voltarol Gel Patch<sup>®</sup>, Pennsaid) (self-care for primary care indicated)
- Felbinac (Traxam<sup>®</sup>) (self-care for primary care indicated)
- Ibuprofen 10% gel (Fenbid<sup>®</sup> Forte Gel, Ibugel<sup>®</sup> Forte) (self-care for primary care indicated)
- Ketoprofen 2.5% (Oruvail<sup>®</sup>, Powergel<sup>®</sup>)
- MoveLat (Topical gel / cream) (self-care for primary care indicated)
- Piroxicam (Feldene<sup>®</sup>)
- Transvasin (self-care for primary care indicated)

**Q2:**

Is there a current policy regarding prescription of paracetamol tablets and suspensions, ibuprofen tablets and topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs? If so, please provide documents and start date.

**Response:**

Not specifically. These items are indicated as self-care and therefore we would hope prescribers would follow the NHSE Over the counter (OTC) guidance where appropriate. These items are referred to in the Dorset Opioid Resource pack as treatment pathways (start date 2018).

**Q3:**

Is there a policy currently being developed regarding prescription of paracetamol tablets and suspensions, ibuprofen tablets and topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs? If so, please provide any documents and predicted start date.

**Response:**

NHS Dorset CCG is not developing a policy regarding prescription of paracetamol tablets and suspensions, ibuprofen tablets and topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs.

**Q4:**

Has there previously been a policy regarding prescription of paracetamol tablets and suspensions, ibuprofen tablets and topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs that has been discarded? If so, please provide documents and start and end date.

**Response:**

There has been no previous policy regarding prescription of paracetamol tablets and suspensions, ibuprofen tablets and topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs.

**Q5:**

Regarding prescribing policy has the CCG given consideration to the recent NHS England guidance "Conditions for which over the counter items should not routinely be prescribed in primary care: Guidance for CCGs" published in March 2018? If so, has this guidance been implemented, or is it planned to be implemented?

**Response:**

Yes, resources have been sent to practices and information is available on the Dorset formulary.

**Q6:**

Have you provided any education for prescribers regarding prescriptions for over-the-counter medication, in particular paracetamol tablets and suspensions, ibuprofen tablets and topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs? If so, when and how were these education sessions delivered (for example, meeting, didactic lecture or leaflet)?

**Response:**

Various resources have been sent to practices. The OTC guidance makes up part of the 2019/20 savings plan (no financial incentive for GPs). NHS England provides resources which are available on the front page of the Pan-Dorset formulary as well as "Over the counter items - GP guide to self-care" created by PrescQIPP.

**Q7:**

Is there any financial incentive for GPs regarding prescription of paracetamol tablets and suspensions, ibuprofen tablets and topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs? If so, please provide documents.

**Response:**

Please see attached document.

**Q8:**

Is there any planned action to enforce any policy regarding prescription of paracetamol tablets and suspensions, ibuprofen tablets and topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs should it not be upheld by prescribers? If so, please provide documents.

**Response:**

No.