Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Drug and Therapeutics Committee
Formulary Guidance - Therapeutic Substitution Policy

Therapeutic substitution is a pharmacist-initiated act by which a therapeutic alternative for the prescribed medicine is dispensed or supplied without consulting the prescriber. This denotes replacement of the prescribed medicine with a different medicine or formulation within the same therapeutic category.

The rationale for the policy is to reduce the incidence of being unable to supply or administer a non-formulary medicine. All therapeutic substitutions will be approved in advance by the Trust Drug and Therapeutics Committee.

This policy enables the pharmacists:

1. To authorise the supply of the therapeutic substitute to outpatients.
2. To delete an existing non-formulary medicine order and create a new order for the therapeutic substitute for an inpatient supply or a supply at discharge.

Where a pharmacist makes a therapeutic substitution the pharmacist will:

1. Ensure the patient or their representative is counselled so the patient understands the reason for the change.
2. For an outpatient, record on the outpatient prescription the change in preparation.
3. For an inpatient or discharge paper prescription, strike through the existing order and write on the prescription ‘Formulary Substitution’. Create a new order with the therapeutic substitute.
4. For an inpatient or discharge electronic prescription delete the existing order with a discontinuation reason of ‘Formulary Substitution’. Create a new order for the therapeutic substitute and attach a Clinical Pharmacy Note indicating a ‘Formulary Substitution’.

Medicines considered suitable are listed in appendix 1 which will be maintained by the Drug and Therapeutics Committee.

This policy is subject to continual review based on current and future NHS medicine contracts to ensure the policy represents value for money for the NHS.

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Appendix 1 – List of medicines approved for therapeutic substitution

Non Formulary Medicine	Dose	Indication	Formulary Therapeutic Substitute	Dose
Inflammatory Bowel Disease: Aminosalicylates				
Asacol (Mesalazine) MR (*not stocked in DBTH pharmacies*)	Up to 4.8g daily	Treatment of mild to moderate UC, acute attack; or Maintenance of remission of UC and Crohn's ileo-colitis	Octasa (Mesalazine) MR	Up to 4.8g daily
Corticosteroids				
Prednisolone 5mg EC Tablets Prednisolone 5mg Soluble Tablets Prednisolone 2.5mg EC Tablets (*not stocked in DBTH pharmacies*)	Up to 60mg daily	Various	Prednisolone 5mg Tablets Prednisolone 2.5mg Tablets	Up to 60mg daily

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Low Molecular Weight Heparins				
Tinzaparin (various strengths) Dalteparin (various strengths)	For appropriate dosing, see BNF section 2/enoxaparin dosing tables	Treatment and Prophylaxis of VTE	Enoxaparin (various strengths) Note: do not switch if allergic to enoxaparin, consult haematology for further advice	For appropriate dosing, see BNF section 2/enoxaparin dosing tables
Perindopril Arginine				
Perindopril arginine 2.5mg, 5mg and 10mg Tablets (*not stocked in DBTH pharmacies*)	5mg daily (2.5mg in the elderly; increased up to 10mg, if necessary)	Hypertension, BPH	Perindopril erbumine 2mg, 4mg and 8mg Tablets	1-4mg daily (increased up to 16mg, if necessary)
Indapamide 1.25mg and Perindopril arginine 5mg (*not stocked in DBTH pharmacies*)	One tablet in the morning	Hypertension	Indapamide 1.5mg MR Tablet plus Perindopril erbumine 4mg Tablet (individual components)	One (of each tablet) in the morning
Opioids				
MST (Morphine) MR Tablets (*not stocked in DBTH pharmacies*)	Various	Various Note: CD prescriptions will need amending by the prescriber to correct the form stated.	Zomorph (morphine) MR Capsules Zomorph 5mg MR Capsules are not available and therefore this strength should not be switched.	Various

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Calcium and Vitamin D Deficiency				
Accrete D3 Tablets Adcal D3 Calceos Tablets Calcichew D3 Forte Tablets Evocal D3 Tablets (*not stocked in DBTH pharmacies*)	Dose varies but provides similar amounts of calcium and vitamin D	Treatment or prophylaxis of calcium and vitamin D deficiency	Calci D Tablets	1 tablet daily
Magnesium Deficiency				
Magnesium Glycerophosphate 4mmol tablets (*not stocked in DBTH pharmacies*)	Various (usual treatment dose = 2 capsules TDS for 3/7)	Hypomagnesaemia	Magnesium aspartate 10mmol sachets (Magnaspartate)	Various (usual treatment dose = 1 sachet BD for 3/7)
Rubefacients and other topical antirheumatics				
Topical NSAIDs Gel or Cream other than Ibuproren Gel 5% (*not stocked in DBTH pharmacies*)	Various	Musculoskeletal pain	Ibuprofen Gel 5%	Up to three times a day

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Skeletal Muscle Relaxants				
Quinine Sulphate 300mg Tablets Quinine Bisulphate 300mg Tablets (*not stocked in DBTH pharmacies*)	300mg at night	Nocturnal Leg Cramps	Quinine Sulphate 200mg	200mg at night
Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs				
Diclofenac 25mg and 50mg Tablets (*not stocked in DBTH pharmacies*)	Various	Pain and Inflammation	Ibuprofen 400mg tablets	400mg TDS
Aspirin EC				
Aspirin EC 75mg Tablets (*not stocked in DBTH pharmacies*)	75mg once daily	Cardiovascular disease (secondary prevention) and other indications	Aspirin dispersible 75mg tablets	75mg once daily
Isosorbide Dinitrate				
Isosorbide Dinitrate 10mg and 20mg Tablets (*not stocked in DBTH pharmacies*)	Up to 40mg twice daily (morning & lunchtime)	Prophylaxis of angina, adjunct in congestive heart failure	Isosorbide Mononitrate 10mg and 20mg Tablets	Up to 40mg twice daily (morning & lunchtime)

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Disorders of Bone Metabolism				
Pamidronate Sodium 30mg Injection (note: do not switch if CrCl >30ml/min – see renal handbook if further info required; or in paediatrics)	15-60mg	Hypercalcaemia of Malignancy	Zolendronic Acid 4mg Injection	4mg
Vitamin D Deficiency				
Colecalciferol 1000unit (25microgram) Tablet Colecalciferol 20000unit (500microgram) Tablet (*not stocked in DBTH pharmacies*)	One tablet daily 300,000IU over 6 to 10 weeks	Vitamin D Deficiency Vitamin D Deficiency	Colecalciferol 800unit (20microgram) Tablet Colecalciferol 25000unit (625microgram) Tablet	One tablet daily 300,000IU over 6 to 10 weeks
Nicotine Replacement Therapy				
Nicorette Patch 15mg Nicorette Patch 10mg Nicorette Patch 5mg (*not stocked in DBTH pharmacies*) (nb. Nicorette Invisi is the formulary choice in pregnant ladies/should not be switched)	Apply in the morning, Remove at night	Smoking Cessation – see formulary guidance for further details	Nicotinell Patch 21mg Nicotinell Patch 14mg Nicotinell Patch 7mg	Apply in the morning, Remove at night

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Dipyridamole (all preparations)				
Dipyridamole 200mg MR caps Dipyridamole 100mg tablets Dipyridamole 50mg/5ml liquid	Various	Antiplatelet drugs	Clopidogrel 75mg tablets	75mg once daily
Dry and Scaling Skin Disorders				
Emollient Creams and Ointments, paraffin-containing e.g. Oilatum, E45, Diprobase	Apply as required	Dry Skin Conditions	Zerobase Cream	Apply as required
Compound haemorrhoidal preparations with corticosteroids				
Proctosedyl Ointment Scheriproct Ointment (*not stocked in DBTH pharmacies*)	Apply twice daily	Relief of pain, irritation and pruritis associated with haemorrhoids and pruritis ani	Anusol Ointment	Apply twice daily
Doxazosin MR				
Doxazosin 4mg and 8mg MR Tablets (*not stocked in DBTH pharmacies*)	4mg daily (increased up to 8mg, if necessary)	Hypertension, BPH	Doxazosin 1mg, 2mg and 4mg Tablets	1-4mg daily (increased up to 16mg, if necessary)

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