



BLMK AREA PRESCRIBING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT April 2023 to March 2024



"To promote rational, evidence-based, high quality, costeffective medicines optimisation across Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes in order to ensure equity of access to medicines for all residents."

The following organisations contribute to and participate in the BLMK Area Prescribing Committee – Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board; Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust; Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust; Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust; East London NHS Foundation Trust; Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

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Contents

Introduction	.3
APC Subgroups	.4
Participating Organisations	.5
Meeting Attendance Figures	.5
Committee Activities and Achievements	.7
Communication and consultation	.7
Guidelines, Pathways and Bulletins	.7
Shared care guidelines/Information for GPs	.8
Miscellaneous Documents	.8
NICE Guidance	.9
Reports received from Subgroups	.9
APC Newsletter1	10
Future Work Programme1	10
Summary1	11
Appendix 1: Output from the BLMK Area Prescribing Committee meetings held between April 2023 and March 20241	12
Appendix 2: Assessment against Ethical and Commissioning Principles 1	13
Appendix 3: NICE Technology Appraisal Guidance (ICB Commissioned)1	15

BLMK AREA PRESCRIBING COMMITTEE (APC) ANNUAL REPORT

April 2023 to March 2024

Introduction

This is the third Annual Report of the BLMK APC, and the contents reflect the output from the committee meetings on 3rd May 2023, 5th July 2023, 27th September 2023, 6th December 2023 and 28th February 2024.

At this stage in the report, it is important that we acknowledge the work done by the commitment of committee and subgroup members to making the BLMK APC work effectively.

The BLMK APC is a strategic local decision-making group with responsibility to promote rational, evidence-based, high quality, cost-effective medicines optimisation across Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes in order to ensure equity of access to medicines for all residents.

The APC makes decisions in ways that are clear, consistent and defensible and takes account of regional and national recommendations using an explicit ethical framework and decision-making criteria that clinicians are aware of when submitting applications for clinical support and for funding.

There is a systematic approach to whole therapeutic areas, not looking solely at single medicines in isolation from the care pathway; there will be consideration of other health-system costs to support and facilitate service redesign.

The APC includes Medicines Safety and Antimicrobial Stewardship as standing agenda items.

The APC performs this work on behalf of the BLMK Integrated Care Board (BLMK ICB) and its partnership organisations. The role of the APC includes discussion on BLMK wide implementation of national guidance on the use of medicines, such as NICE Technology Appraisals/Guidelines where medicines are included, assessment of the clinical and cost-effectiveness of medicines and medicines excluded from the NHS Payment Scheme, discussion and agreement of local therapeutic guidelines where there is a large medicines component and assisting in the resolution of problems relating to prescribing at the primary and secondary care interface. The focus of the Committee has changed in recent years. There has been a shift away from evaluation of new medicines to production of therapeutic guidelines/pathways to assist in safe, effective and cost-effective prescribing. This reflects the changing role of Area Prescribing Committees which now focus more on production of medicine related guidelines.

Please <u>click here</u> to access the current Terms of Reference of BLMK APC. Output from the BLMK APC can be found in Appendix 1.

Page 3 of 16

APC Subgroups

Four subgroups to the APC have been created. All are advisory and make recommendations to the APC for ratification:

- 1. BLMK Formulary Subgroup: There are currently two joint Formularies Milton Keynes Joint Formulary and Bedfordshire and Luton Joint Formulary. The BLMK Formulary Subgroup focusses on the evaluation of new medicines and additional preparations of existing medicines with potential impact in primary and secondary care (prescribing or commissioning) for addition to both Joint Formularies. It also reviews sections of the Formularies and prepares shared care guidelines. Acute Trust Drugs and Therapeutics Committees focus on reviewing hospital only medicines. Medicines which are the subject of a positive NICE Technology Appraisal Guidance are automatically added to both Joint Formularies. Please click here to access the current Terms of Reference of the Formulary Subgroup. While formal merger of the two Joint Formularies is not expected in the short term, in the longer term alignment of the Formularies is anticipated as a result of the work of the BLMK Formulary Subgroup.
- 2. The BLMK Medicines Safety Group (MSG) provides information on drug safety updates (DSU) and patient safety alerts to the APC. The MSG is a forum to inform and improve medication safety across the BLMK health economy, sharing of information about and learning from medication safety issues occurring in both primary and secondary care. It also makes medicines safety recommendations which span the interface between primary and secondary care. Please click here to access the current Terms of Reference of the BLMK Medicines Safety Group.
- 3. Wound Management Formulary Steering Group. The purpose of the Wound Management Formulary Steering Group is to provide strategic oversight in all aspects of Wound Management products across the local health economy in Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes. To develop, implement, and monitor the application of wound management documentation, policies, guidance and practice. This group has been in existence for many years serving Bedfordshire and Luton and has been extended to include representation from Milton Keynes. Please click here to access the current Terms of Reference of the Wound Management Formulary Steering Group. Work is ongong to move towards alignment of the wound care formularies across BLMK.
- 4. **Patient Group Direction Subgroup**. The purpose of the Patient Group Direction (PGD) Subgroup is to review and make recommendations to the APC on patient group directions that the group have agreed are clinically appropriate for use within the commissioned service and meet all the legal requirements. The PGD subgroup ensures that the ICB PGD policy is applied and that appropriate

Page 4 of 16

governance relating to PGD preparation is in place by the organisation preparing the PGD. This is a new subgroup of the APC which has been operating since May 2023. Please <u>click here</u> to access the current Terms of Reference of the Patient Group Direction Subgroup.

The APC and its subgroups work to their terms of reference, and follow an Ethical and Commissioning Principles framework, incorporating an Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment where applicable (see Appendix 2) when producing recommendations on medicines/guidelines. APC and Subgroup members are asked to complete the current declarations of conflict of interest and do not take part in decision-making where a conflict of interest arises.

Participating Organisations

The APC serves the following participating NHS organisations:

- Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Bedford site and Luton & Dunstable site)
- Milton Keynes Hospital University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- East London Foundation NHS Trust (ELFT) (Provides Mental Health Services to Bedfordshire and Luton and Community Health Services to Bedfordshire).
- Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust (Provides Community Health Services to Luton).
- Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust (CNWL) (Provides Community and Mental Health Services to Milton Keynes).
- Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board

Representation on the APC comes from the participating organisations and is included in the APC Terms of Reference. The Committee chair is a BLMK ICS clinician.

Meeting Attendance Figures

BLMK APC meetings are usually held bi-monthly and the Committee first met in September 2021. There have been a total of five business APC committee meetings held from April 2023 to March 2024. Meetings were held virtually by Microsoft Teams and at dates and times that members have said they would be available. Dates and times of meetings are set at least 6 months in advance of the meeting. The table below illustrates APC member and participating NHS organisations' APC attendance from April 2023 to March 2024 for the five business meetings (some members deputise for each other and % attendance reflects this fact). People who attend in an 'in attendance' capacity are not included in the table.

Page 5 of 16

Job Title	Organisation representing	2023/24 % attendance
Chair	Working on behalf of the Committee	100%
Place Based Lead GP– Milton Keynes or Deputy	Place Based Lead GP	80%
Place Based Lead GP – Luton	Place Based Lead GP	60%
Place Based Lead GP – Central Bedfordshire	Place Based Lead GP	60%
Place Based Lead GP – Bedford	Place Based Lead GP	100%
Pharmacist Representative	Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	80%
Pharmacist Representative	Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	100%
Consultant in Public Health	Working on behalf of the Committee	80%
Medical Representative	Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	100%
Medical Representation	Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	60%
APC Professional Secretary	Working on behalf of the Committee	100%
Pharmacist Representative	Assisting the Professional Secretary working on behalf of the Committee	60%
Lay Representative	Working on behalf of the Committee	80%
Associate Director: Pharmacy and Medicines optimisation	BLMK ICB	100%
Place Based Lead Pharmacist – Central Bedfordshire	BLMK ICB	80%
Place Based Lead Pharmacist – Bedford	BLMK ICB	60%
Place Based Lead Pharmacist – Luton	BLMK ICB	40%
Chair of Medicines Safety Group	Secondary Care	80%
Chair of Wound Care Group	BLMK ICB	80%
Chair of Formulary Subgroup	BLMK ICB	100%
Formulary Lead Pharmacist	BLMK ICB	80%
Pharmacist Representative	CNWL (Community and Mental Health Services Milton Keynes)	60%
Pharmacist Representative	ELFT (Community Services (Beds)/Mental Health Services (Beds and Luton))	100%
Pharmacist Representative	CCS (Beds & Luton Community Services Provider)	80%
Nurse Representative (Independent Prescriber)	Secondary Care	20%

In addition to those outlined above, the Committee also welcomed the attendance and contribution of other colleagues from participating organisations, including authors of papers and observers who attended to better understand the work of the Committee.

Committee Activities and Achievements

Communication and consultation

Key stakeholders are identified and consulted when medicines/pathways within specialist areas are discussed. As many views as possible are sought and considered during the APC meeting. Specialists/staff with specialist input are invited to attend APC meetings to contribute to the meeting or make presentations. A total of 35 presentations were made over the five business meetings held from May 2023 to March 2024. In addition, where complex guidelines are discussed, clinicians are invited to participate in subgroup meetings prior to full discussion at APC.

A consensus recommendation is reached by APC members, and these are presented in the form of APC recommendations and more detailed APC guidelines which are communicated to key stakeholders either individually (via email) or through newsletters.

The APC and its subgroups have produced a variety of guidance on the appropriate and cost-effective use of medicines during the 2023/24 financial year and these are outlined below.

Guidelines, Pathways and Bulletins

The following Guidelines, Pathways and Bulletins were produced or updated and ratified during the 2023/24 Financial Year:

- Primary care psoriasis pathway
- Migraine pathway
- Atopic dermatitis pathway
- Somatostatin analogues bulletin
- Ulcerative Colitis pathway update
- AHSN Lipid Optimisation Pathway (ratified for local use)
- Medical devices bulletin
- Glucagon-Like-Peptide 1 Receptor Agonist National Shortage Guidance
- Severe psoriasis pathway update
- Crohn's disease pathway update
- Hypertension patient leaflet
- Guideline for Treatment and Prevention of Migraine (excluding anti-CGRP medicines)
- Antimicrobial guideline update
- Ankylosing Spondylitis and Non-radiographic Axial Spondyloarthritis pathway update

- Psoriatic arthritis pathway update
- Adult asthma guidelines

Copies of the Guidelines, Pathways and Bulletins are available on the <u>BLMK</u> <u>Medicines Optimisation website</u> with Formulary specific information available by accessing the two joint formularies:

http://www.bedsformulary.nhs.uk/https://formularymk.nhs.uk/

Shared care guidelines/Information for GPs

During 2023/2024 the following shared care guidelines (SCGs)/information for GPs were produced or updated and ratified:

- o Liraglutide prescribing guidance use in children with T2DM
- SGLT2i for treating chronic heart failure with preserved or mildly reduced ejection fraction prescribing guidance
- o Linezolid prescribing guidance
- o Daridorexant for long-term insomnia information for clinicians
- SGLT2 inhibitors for treating chronic kidney disease information for clinicians
- Rimegepant for acute migraine information for clinicians
- Tirzepatide prescribing support information (diabetes)
- o Oral semaglutide switching document
- Alemtuzumab shared care guidance (Cambridgeshire Hospitals Trust SCG ratified for local use)
- Azathioprine and Mercaptopurine in Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) and Autoimmune Hepatitis shared care guideline
- o Lithium shared care guideline
- o Dementia medicines shared care guideline
- Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in adults shared care guideline (Psychiatry UK only)

These are available on the <u>BLMK Medicines Optimisation Shared Care</u> <u>Guidelines webpage</u> along with previous information.

Miscellaneous Documents

The following miscellaneous documents were approved or noted (for information) by the APC Committee during April 2023 to March 2024:

- Position statement on shared care with private providers
- Patient Group Direction policy and PGD subgroup Terms of Reference
- Biphasic MR Methylphenidate memo
- o BLMK APC Terms of Reference
- o BLMK APC annual report 2022/23
- o Covid-19 Therapeutics / CMDU updates
- Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) updates
- Risk sharing policy update
- Safer Valproate prescribing briefing paper
- o Minutes of meetings from the contributing organisations to the APC

This information can be found on the <u>BLMK Medicines Optimisation website</u> and via the Joint Formularies (Formulary specific information): http://www.bedsformulary.nhs.uk/
https://formularymk.nhs.uk/

NICE Guidance

NICE Technology Appraisal Guidance (NICE TAs) and guidelines were noted by the BLMK APC from April 2023 to March 2024. NICE TAs which are the commissioning responsibility of ICBs are noted for implementation. NICE Guidelines are noted for information and action where appropriate and NICE TAs where the commissioning responsibility rests with NHS England (NHSE) are noted for information only. As a result of the issue of NICE Guidance, updates to existing APC guidance and BLMK Formulary are undertaken.

See appendix 3 for information on ICB Commissioned NICE Technology Appraisal Guidance considered by the APC between April 2023 and March 2024.

<u>Click here</u> to access all NICE Guidance issued from 15th February 2023 to 14th February 2024.

Reports received from Subgroups

The APC also received reports from its Subgroups and ratified recommendations made at these groups:

• BLMK Formulary Subgroup (FSG)

The Formulary additions and deletions made between April 2023 and March 2024 can be accessed here: BLMK ICB All Newsletters
The BLMK Formularies can be accessed by clicking on the following links: http://www.bedsformulary.nhs.uk/
https://formularymk.nhs.uk/

BLMK Medicines Safety Group (MSG)

The BLMK Medicines Safety group brought the Drug Safety Updates and national Patient Safety Alerts to the APC for information and action. This information can be accessed from April 2023 to March 2024 APC Newsletters:- All Newsletters – BLMKICB Medicines Management

• BLMK Wound Management Formulary Steering Group.

The APC ratifies the formulary recommendations of the BLMK Wound Care Formulary Steering Group which has representation from relevant clinicians across Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes. Currently there are two Formularies in operation, both of which are now available online via the Wound Management Formulary website.

Details of additions and deletions made to the Wound Care Formulary between April 2023 and March 2024 can be accessed via the APC Newsletters here: BLMK ICB All Newsletters.

Page 9 of 16

• Patient Group Directions (PGD) Subgroup

The PGD subgroup makes recommendations to the BLMK APC on approval of PGDs to be used within the BLMK integrated care system. Details of PGDs approved between April 2023 to March 2024 may be found within the relevant APC meeting notes.

Antimicrobial Resistance Update

Updates are provided to the Committee by the BLMK ICB Lead Antimicrobial Pharmacist, and the information provided can be accessed from April 2023 to March 2024 here: <u>All Newsletters – BLMKICB Medicines Management.</u>
A new BLMK antibiotics guidelines website has been developed, which may be accessed here:

BLMK Antibiotics Live (blmkantibioticspubliclive.azurewebsites.net)

East of England Priorities Advisory Committee (EoE PAC)

Bulletins produced by the APC have been submitted to the EoE PAC to help inform production of East of England wide policies on medicines where it is appropriate to have these. Outputs from EoE PAC are considered and ratified by the APC as appropriate.

The APC ratified the following EoE PAC recommendations and bulletins between April 2023 and March 2024:

- Dibotermin alfa for the management of acute tibial fractures in adults
- EXOGEN ultrasound bone healing system for the management of bone fractures

APC Newsletter

An APC Newsletter is produced following each business meeting of the Committee providing a brief summary of APC recommendations and is widely circulated within the Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes health economy (Primary care clinicians, Community Pharmacists, and Secondary Care). Five Newsletters have been produced between May 2023 and March 2024 and can be accessed from:

https://medicines.bedfordshirelutonandmiltonkeynes.icb.nhs.uk/allnewsletters/

Future Work Programme

The work plan of the APC includes updating, aligning and/or developing new pathways/guidelines including the following:

- Vitamin D Pathway Update
- Continence Appliance Prescribing Guidelines
- Ulcerative Colitis pathway update
- Contraception guidance
- Osteoporosis pathway update
- Severe localised (high impact site) psoriasis recommendations

- Migraine pathway update
- o BLMK lipid management guidance
- Antimicrobial guidelines update
- Choice of proton pump inhibitors in paediatrics

Summary

The BLMK Area Prescribing Committee has, during the 2023/24 financial year, continued to build on the legacy of its predecessor committees to ensure the provision of recommendations on the safe, clinical and cost-effective use of medicines to the BLMK ICB and provider Trusts to improve patient outcomes of the Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes population. The meetings have been well attended with good representation from primary care, secondary care and lay members.

We hope you find this annual report helpful. Any comments on this document are welcomed by the APC Secretary.

APC Secretary contact details:

E-mail: anne.graeff@nhs.net

Arndale House

Luton

Appendix 1: Output from the BLMK Area Prescribing Committee meetings held between April 2023 and March 2024

The approved APC meeting notes can be accessed via the following links:

3rd May 2023 5th July 2023 27th September 2023 6th December 2023 28th February 2024

The APC Newsletters (summarising decisions made at the meetings) and Formulary Newsletters (to include agreed updates to the Bedfordshire and Luton Joint Formulary and Milton Keynes Joint Formulary) can be accessed via the following link:

Newsletters

Page 12 of 16

Appendix 2: Assessment against Ethical and Commissioning Principles

Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes (BLMK) Area Prescribing Committee (APC)

Assessment against Ethical and Commissioning Principles

Treatment assessed (Month and Year):			
	mmendation		
TBC post	l Effectiveness		
,	ling to national guidelines		
	ffectiveness		
•	appropriate and cost- effective products have been recommended		
	of the community		
e.g. preval	ence and incidence of disease being treated?		
,	& Equality Impact Assessment (see also embedded additional ion including factsheet below to aid completion of this section)		
Consider whether this decision of the APC will have an impact for patients or staff in regard to Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights legislation. Such impacts (negative) could include:			
	triction of a drug which could benefit those with certain conditions ^{1,2}		
more equali	mplementation of the decision of the BLMK APC may impact on one or ty group differently to others, a full equality impact assessment may completed as advised by the BLMK Equality and Diversity Lead.		
	Protected Characteristics (under the Equality Act 2010): Age; Disability; Gender reassignment; Marriage & Civil Partnership (in employment only); Pregnancy & Maternity; Race; Religion & Belief; Sex; Sexual orientation; carers; other identified groups.		
W			
Equality	Impact		
Assessment			
¹ NB Equality and Diversity is only one part of an assessment of the new drug/indication. ² It should be noted that where the BLMK APC is following national guidance, these have been developed with consultation and are required to have been subject to Equality Analysis and Due Regard.			
Please stat	te whether the decision will have an impact:		
	If YES , the proposal is likely to impact patients or staff. Please set out those impacts and any mitigations that have been identified in the section below. Examples include a process where the needs of exceptional cases can be met.		
_	NO , please state that the decision has been reviewed with regard to Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights and no issues have been identified in the section below.		

Page 13 of 16

Provide rationale for impact assessment:

Should a significant impact be identified a full EQIA should be completed

5) Need for healthcare (incorporates patient choice and exceptional need)

e.g. are there alternative therapies available or is this a completely new treatment option?

6) Policy drivers:

e.g. relevant local or national guidance

7) Disinvestment:

- How will this medicine help to address local health priorities?
- By using this medicine, what disinvestment in other medicines, interventions and services may be possible?
- How much would this save?
- Affordability considerations?
- Will this medicine help to address local health priorities?

8) Environmental impact of decision (if applicable)

Appendix 3: NICE Technology Appraisal Guidance (ICB Commissioned)

NICE Technology Appraisal Guidance (ICB Commissioned) – considered by BLMK APC April 2023 – March 2024

Risankizumab for previously treated moderately to severely active Crohn's disease Technology appraisal guidance [TA888] Published: 17 May 2023 https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta888

Esketamine for treating major depressive disorder in adults at imminent risk of suicide (terminated appraisal) Technology appraisal [TA899] Published: 06 June 2023 https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta899

Tixagevimab plus cilgavimab for preventing COVID-19 Technology appraisal guidance [TA900] Published: 14 June 2023 https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta900 (not recommended)

Dapagliflozin for treating chronic heart failure with preserved or mildly reduced ejection fraction Technology appraisal guidance [TA902] Published: 21 June 2023 https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta902

Upadacitinib for previously treated moderately to severely active Crohn's disease Technology appraisal guidance [TA905] Published: 21 June 2023 https://www.nice.org.uk/quidance/ta905

Casirivimab plus imdevimab, nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir, sotrovimab and tocilizumab for treating COVID-19 Technology appraisal guidance [TA878] Published: 29 March 2023 Last updated: 22 June 2023 https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta878

Deucravacitinib for treating moderate to severe plaque psoriasis Technology appraisal guidance [TA907] Published: 28 June 2023 https://www.nice.org.uk/quidance/ta907

Rimegepant for preventing migraine Technology appraisal guidance [TA906] Published: 05 July 2023 https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta906

Semaglutide for managing overweight and obesity in young people aged 12 to 17 years (terminated appraisal) Technology appraisal [TA910] Published: 13 July 2023 https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta910

Semaglutide for managing overweight and obesity Technology appraisal guidance [TA875] Published: 08 March 2023 Last updated: 04 September 2023 https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta875

Dupilumab for treating eosinophilic oesophagitis in people 12 years and over (terminated appraisal) Technology appraisal [TA938] Published: 07 December 2023 https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta938

Hybrid closed loop systems for managing blood glucose levels in type 1 diabetes Technology appraisal guidance [TA943] Published: 19 December 2023 https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta943

Page 15 of 16

Empagliflozin for treating chronic kidney disease Technology appraisal guidance [TA942] Published: 20 December 2023 https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta942

Targeted-release budesonide for treating primary IgA nephropathy Technology appraisal guidance [TA937] Published: 20 December 2023 https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta937

Etrasimod for treating moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis in people aged 16 and over Technology appraisal guidance Reference number: TA956 Published: 11 March 2024 https://www.nice.org.uk/quidance/ta956

Nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir, sotrovimab and tocilizumab for treating COVID-19 Technology appraisal guidance Reference number: TA878 Published: 29 March 2023 Last updated: 13 March 2024 https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta878

Fluocinolone acetonide intravitreal implant for treating chronic diabetic macular oedema Technology appraisal guidance Reference number: TA953 Published: 13 March 2024 https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta953 (NB: replaces NICE TA301 and TA613).

Dupilumab for treating moderate to severe prurigo nodularis Technology appraisal guidance Reference number: TA955 Published: 13 March 2024 https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta955

Ritlecitinib for treating severe alopecia areata in people 12 years and over Technology appraisal guidance [TA958] Published: 27 March 2024 https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta958

Page 16 of 16