

Net.Formulary User Guide

The Net.Formulary contains information about the formularies of primary and secondary care organisations. This Guide will help you understand how the Net.Formulary works and ensure you obtain the correct information.



Secondary Care – Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust Formulary

The Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust formulary is depicted by the **blue text**, and includes information on the formulation available for each item. **It is important that you read the information under each drug**, to ensure that you are aware of any restrictions or conditions. For example, a branded drug may be listed as *Non-Formulary*, but refers to the generic drug which are listed as *Formulary*.

As the Mental Health specialist, Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust (BHFT) is the lead organisation for chapter 4 (Central nervous system). Therefore, there are cases where a product is listed in the *non-formulary* section, but it is *formulary* for the Royal Berks and vice versa. See below;

Formulary Item for Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust

Carbamazepine **Non Formulary** **Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust >> Formulary Item** tablets / MR tablets / liquid / suppositories
Green

BNF SPC BNFC

Non-Formulary Item for Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust

Clozapine (Clozaril®) **Restricted** **Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust >> Please refer to local acute hospital guidelines**
Red

- BHFT guidelines state clozapine should only be initiated in secondary care
- With the exception of clozapine, the efficacy of all antipsychotics are very similar and often the choice is governed by the side effect profile of the antipsychotic and its relative importance to the service user

Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust >> NON - Formulary Item - for patients admitted on clozapine therapy, continuation of treatment is important - [contact Pharmacy as soon as possible](#) for advice on obtaining a supply from PPH.
 Treatment should not be initiated in RBH

When prescribing a drug for your patient, if treatment is required to be prescribed by the GP following the patient's discharge, you must ensure that the drug is **green** or **amber** traffic light status (see Primary Care section below). This does not apply to treatment where individual funding / local agreements are in place.

If you require the use of a **non-formulary product** for your patients, a Non-Formulary form must be filled out in order for the product to be supplied. Please note, that it may take up to 2 working days to order non-formulary items in.

[Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust - Application Forms](#)

Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust Application forms can be found on the [Net.Formulary Homepage](#) for the following;

- Request for the addition of a drug on to the formulary
 - o Full application form - for any new product not on an approved guideline
 - o Supplementary application form – for any product on a guideline/policy that has/will gain approval.

- Request for the use of a non-formulary drug (restrictions apply)

[Secondary Care \(Mental Health and Community Health Services\) – Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust Formulary](#)

The BHFT formulary largely focuses on mental health medicines covered by chapter 4 (Central Nervous System) on this system. For physical health medicines, our prescribers should use options in accordance with our local acute trusts.

For services in the West of Berkshire, use medicines which are formulary items at Royal Berkshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (see above) **or** have been assigned an **amber** or **green** status in Primary Care.

For services in the East of Berkshire, use <http://www.frimleyhealthformulary.nhs.uk/> to look at physical health medicines. All mental health treatment options are visible on Berkshire West Net formulary.

The form for adding a new drug to the BHFT formulary can be accessed [here](#) .

[Drug References](#)

There are 3 buttons under each drug that link directly link to the drug in each of the following online reference sources;

- British National Formulary
- Summary of Product Characteristics (detailed manufacturer information)
- Children's British National Formulary

Primary Care / GP Formulary

The primary care formulary is depicted by the four Traffic Light symbols. Although the formulary is an advisory tool for GPs, **Red** and **Brown** drugs are in effect **non-formulary** items

 **Green** - Medicines suitable for routine use and can be prescribed within primary and secondary care within their licensed indication in accordance with the BNF or other recognised national formulary. Primary care prescribers take full responsibility for prescribing

 **Amber** - Medicines that should be initiated or recommended by a specialist for continuation in primary care. The specialist must notify the primary care provider that the prescribing responsibility has been transferred. Where applicable, shared care protocols will be agreed and must be adhered to. The shared care protocol must have been agreed by the relevant secondary care trust Drugs and Therapeutics Committee(s)(DTC) and approved by Berkshire West APC.

 **Red** - Medicines which should be prescribed by specialists only

 **Brown** - Drugs that have been reviewed and not recommended for prescribing. These drugs are not considered a cost effective use of scarce NHS resources. There may be individual patient specific or clinical reasons why a drug deemed low priority may be suitable for a particular patient. This is for the GP to consider, weighing up the reasons against his/her allocated CCG budget. Where the decision is made to prescribe a low priority drug, detailed documentation must be included within the patients' notes for audit purposes. *Please note that low priority drug requests are unsuitable for the Case Review Committee and therefore should not be sent to this committee.