



IMOC Bulletin August 2026

South Yorkshire Integrated Medicines Optimisation Committee

Summary of outcomes from the July 2026 meeting

Welcome to the first edition

This new bulletin has been developed to share key updates arising from South Yorkshire Integrated Medicines Optimisation Committee (IMOC) meetings. South Yorkshire IMOC brings together providers, commissioners and other partners to develop South Yorkshire-wide, evidence-based recommendations regarding medicines optimisation.

The bulletin will be issued regularly to promote awareness of IMOC recommendations across South Yorkshire. This edition summarises the key updates from the July 2026 meeting. As there was no IMOC meeting scheduled in August 2026, the next bulletin will be published following the September meeting.

At a Glance: Key Messages from the July 2026 IMOC Meeting

- ✓ Tirzepatide position statement for managing overweight and obesity and green classification updated to include cohort 2 eligibility.
- ✓ New guidance published on recording medicines prescribed elsewhere on GP clinical systems.
- ✓ Updates made to the South Yorkshire Traffic Light Drug List.
- ✓ Important medicines safety reminder regarding safer sleep advice and sedating medicines.
- ✓ New South Yorkshire QIPP review summary for practices.

Tirzepatide for managing overweight and obesity updates

The [tirzepatide position statement](#) has been updated to include the addition of cohort 2* in the eligibility criteria, in line with [NHSE commissioning guidance](#). The green traffic light status of tirzepatide for weight management now includes cohorts 1 and 2.

*cohort 2 includes patients with ≥4 qualifying comorbidities (hypertension, dyslipidaemia, obstructive sleep apnoea, cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes mellitus) and a BMI ≥35 – 39.9.

Refer to the NHSE commissioning guidance for further information, including when to use a lower BMI threshold.

The clinical guidelines to support the use of tirzepatide for weight management and supporting patient information leaflet will be updated in due course.

Recording medicines prescribed elsewhere on clinical practice systems guide

[This new South Yorkshire ICB guide](#) has been developed to provide standardised guidance for general practices across South Yorkshire on how to safely and consistently record medication that is prescribed by organisations other than the patient's registered GP practice (e.g. secondary care, community pharmacy services, private providers etc) within GP clinical systems. Correct recording supports patient safety, medicines reconciliation, clinical decision-making, and the accuracy of the Summary Care Record (SCR).

Drug Classification Updates

Drug	Indication/other information	South Yorkshire IMOC Classification
Tirzepatide	Weight management	Green entry updated to include cohort 2 patients in addition to cohort 1 (multiple traffic light entries – refer to the South Yorkshire traffic light drug list for further information)
Potassium Chloride Syrup 7.5% (equivalent to 1 mmol K+ per ml)	For the treatment of hypokalaemia and potassium deficiency of renal and extrarenal origin.	Green This is a new licensed generic alternative To Kay-Cee-L® syrup.
Amlodipine	Hypertension, Chronic stable angina pectoris, Vasospastic (Prinzmetal's) angina	Green Amlodipine orodispersible tablets have a higher cost in comparison to standard tablets.
Relugolix	Treating hormone-sensitive prostate cancer	Amber-G (previously red)
Linezolid	Oxazolidinone antibacterial	Place specific classification: Red in Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield Green classification in Rotherham in line with existing arrangements for the access to antimicrobials for Rotherham community-based patients with infections in whom Linezolid is the only treatment option on advice from microbiology.
Dienogest	Endometriosis	Red
Mepolizumab	For maintenance treatment of uncontrolled chronic obstructive pulmonary disease with raised blood eosinophils.	Grey Classification will be reviewed when a plan to support implementation has been agreed. TA1166
Elinzanetant	Moderate to severe vasomotor symptoms associated with menopause or adjuvant endocrine therapy related to breast cancer.	Grey NICE TAs in development

The South Yorkshire ICB Traffic Light Drug List (TLDL) can be accessed via [SY ICB Medicines Optimisation](#).

Work is ongoing to standardise classifications across South Yorkshire. In the interim, for medicines which have not yet been traffic lighted by the South Yorkshire IMOC, please consult place TLDLs (Sheffield/Rotherham), Barnsley formulary (Barnsley) / Medicines & Products Directory [MPD] (Doncaster), all of which can be accessed via the above link to the South Yorkshire ICB Medicines Optimisation website.

Safety Updates

Sheffield's Safer Sleep Steering Group

An infant death (4 months) occurred where the carer had taken sedating medication, and co-sleeping contributed. There is a need to link sedating medicine counselling with safer sleep advice for parents/carers of infants.

The BNF has been updated to include:

“Patients who are parents or carers of babies aged up to 12 months should be counselled on the risks of co-sleeping (sleeping with a baby on a bed, sofa, chair, etc.); for further information on safer sleeping and co-sleeping, see the Lullaby Trust at: <https://www.lullabytrust.org.uk/baby-safety/safer-sleep-information/co-sleeping/>”.

South Yorkshire Support Offer

NHS South Yorkshire ICB is working with local authority Public Health teams across South Yorkshire to develop and promote a comprehensive safer sleep support offer for primary care and community pharmacy teams. This will include access to local training, resources and expert support to help healthcare professionals provide consistent safer sleep advice to parents and carers, particularly when prescribing or supplying medicines associated with drowsiness.

QIPP Opportunities

Medicines Optimisation Quality Improvement/Incentive Scheme

A [summary of medicines QIPP opportunities document](#) has been produced to support delivery of the South Yorkshire ICB Medicines Optimisation Quality Improvement/Incentive Scheme.

The document brings together a range of medicines related QIPP opportunities, the majority of which are established initiatives that have been implemented in one or more South Yorkshire places, alongside a small number of new opportunities.

Information relating to these opportunities is either already available within OptimiseRx or is in the process of being added.

Resources and Contact Information

South Yorkshire ICB prescribing guidelines, medicines optimisation resources and other IMOC related information are available on the [SY ICB Medicines Optimisation website](#).

IMOC application forms can be accessed via the [South Yorkshire Notice Board](#) section of the website.

For further information, please contact the South Yorkshire ICB Medicines Optimisation Team at: syicb.syicbmedsopt@nhs.net.

