NHS
South Yorkshire
Integrated Care Board

# IMOC Bulletin October 2026

**South Yorkshire Integrated Medicines Optimisation Committee**

*Summary of outcomes from the October 2026 meeting*

## Resources and Contact Information

South Yorkshire IMOC and ICB prescribing guidelines and other medicines optimisation resources and information are available on the South Yorkshire ICB Medicines Optimisation website. IMOC application forms can be accessed via the South Yorkshire Notice Board section of the website.

South Yorkshire ICB Medicines Optimisation Team mailbox: syicb.syicbmedsopt@nhs.net

## At a Glance: Key Messages from the October 2026 IMOC Meeting

- ✓ Updated tirzepatide weight management guidelines including NHSE Priority Cohort 2
- ✓ Updated Hybrid Closed Loops (HCL) priority cohorts within the position statement
- ✓ Prescribed products categorisation updates
- ✓ New adult treatment pathway for sodium zirconium cyclosilicate (SZC) for persistent hyperkalaemia in line with NICE TA1148
- ✓ Minor update to prescribing guidelines for the use of SGLT2 Inhibitors in the management of chronic heart failure
- ✓ Medicines and patient safety updates
- ✓ Information on stock shortages and discontinued products

## Updated Clinical Guidelines for Primary Care to Support the Use of Tirzepatide for Weight Management

The South Yorkshire Tirzepatide Weight Management Clinical Guideline and Quick Reference Guide have been updated to include NHSE Priority Cohort 2 within the eligibility criteria for treatment in primary care. References to the previous Local Enhanced Service (LES) have been removed, and the guideline now provides clarification on the SNOMED CT codes that contribute to QOF indicator OB005.

In addition, hyperlinks have been added to the Behavioural Support for Obesity Programme (BSOP) resources, including referral instructions, patient information leaflet and clinician service overview leaflet, making it easier for practices to access resources to support the delivery of the mandatory wraparound support (BSOP) associated with tirzepatide prescribing.

## Updated Hybrid Closed Loop (HCL) Systems for Managing Blood Glucose Levels in Type 1 Diabetes Position Statement

The SY ICB HCL position statement has been updated to include cohort 2 of eligible patients bringing it in line with current practice. Hybrid closed loop systems have a red (specialist only) classification on the SY Prescribed Products Classification List and monitoring of patients is carried out in secondary care. There is a 5 year implementation period for HCL, and it has been agreed in South Yorkshire that patients are prioritised for HCL treatment depending on clinical need. Once cohort 2 patients have largely been started on HCL, consideration will be given to moving to the next clinical priorities. For details of groups of patients included in cohort 2 please refer to the position statement.

# Prescribed Products Categorisation Updates

| Medicine/Product | Indication/other information | South Yorkshire IMOC Categorisation |
|---|---|---|
| **Mefenamic acid 250mg capsules and 500mg tablets** | In line with NICE CKS Dysmenorrhoea and NICE CKS Menorrhagia, should be reserved for use after both ibuprofen and naproxen have been considered.<br>Mefenamic acid has a relatively narrow margin of safety in overdose, with serious toxicity, particularly convulsions reported, which if prolonged or recurrent, require treatment BNF: Mefenamic Acid – side-effects. Patients should be advised not to exceed the recommended dose. | **Category: All settings**<br>After ibuprofen and naproxen have been considered. |
| **Doxycycline** | Antibiotic | **Category: All settings**<br>NICE/UKHSA Summary of antimicrobial prescribing guidance - managing common infections |
| **Tolterodine** | Symptomatic treatment of urge incontinence and/or increased urinary frequency and urgency as may occur in patients with overactive bladder syndrome. | **Category: All settings**<br>**Preferencing recommendation: Preferred** Use the anticholinergic medicine with the lowest acquisition cost which meets the patient's needs, refer to local guidance where available. Tolterodine 2mg/5ml oral suspension has a higher cost in comparison to tolterodine tablets. |
| **Carbimazole** | Anti-thyroid agent | **Category: All settings**<br>**Preferencing recommendation: Preferred**<br>Carbimazole 5mg and 20mg tablets should be used where clinically appropriate in preference to the 10mg and 15mg tablets which have a significantly higher cost. Carbimazole 2.5mg/ml sugar-free oral solution has a higher cost in comparison to carbimazole tablets. |
| **Icosapent ethyl** | Lipid modifying drug NICE TA805 | **Category: Specialist advice** |
| **Sodium Zirconium Cyclosilicate (SZC)** | Persistent hyperkalaemia in patients with Chronic Kidney Disease (stages 3b-5) or heart failure based on NICE TA1148. | **Category: Specialist initiation**<br>Note that SZC previously had a red classification.<br>Adult Treatment pathway for SZC in line with NICE TA1148 available (refer to further information on page 4 of this bulletin). |
| **Apixaban**<br>*(Multiple classifications depending on indication)* | Treatment and prevention of DVT and/or PE NICE TA341. | **Category: Specialist initiation for this indication** |
| **Aviptadil / phentolamine (Invicorp®)** | Erectile Dysfunction | **Category: Specialist initiation** |
| **Calcium acetate** | Hyperphosphataemia | **Category: Specialist initiation** |
| **Co-enzyme Q10** | For an indication of 'Metabolic disorders ONLY'. | **Category: Specialist initiation**<br>BIMDG National Formulary |
| **Enoxaparin** | In line with place based Shared Care Protocols where available. | **Category: Shared care** |
| **Orforglipron (weight management indication)** | As an adjunct to diet and exercise for weight management in adults with a BMI of: ≥30kg/m2 (obesity); or ≥27kg/m2 to <30kg/m2 (overweight) with at least one weight-related comorbidity. | **Category: Do not prescribe**<br>Only for private prescribing for weight management. NICE TAs in development.<br>(Note: classification of orforglipron in type 2 diabetes to be considered at forthcoming IMOC meeting) |

# Prescribed Products Categorisation Updates Continued

| Medicine/Product | Indication/other information | South Yorkshire IMOC Categorisation |
|---|---|---|
| **Aripiprazole injection** | Schizophrenia, rapid control of agitation and disturbed behaviours in patients, when oral therapy is not appropriate. | **Category: Specialist only** |
| **Cinacalcet** *(Dual categorisation)* | Primary hyperparathyroidism in line with place based shared care protocols, where available. | **Category: Shared care** |
| **Cinacalcet** *(Dual categorisation)* | Secondary hyperparathyroidism in adult patients with end stage renal disease. | **Category: Specialist only** |
| **Colistimethate sodium (colistin sulfomethate sodium)** *(Dual categorisation)* | Non-cystic fibrosis bronchiectasis indication. | **Category: Shared care** |
| **Colistimethate sodium (colistin sulfomethate sodium)** *(Dual categorisation)* | Cystic fibrosis | **Category: Specialist only** |
| **Dabigatran etexilate** *(Dual categorisation)* | Anticoagulant for stroke and systemic embolism prevention in AF. | **Category: All settings** |
| **Dabigatran etexilate** *(Dual categorisation)* | Treatment and prevention of DVT and/or PE. | **Category: Specialist initiation** |
| **Cyproterone acetate** *(Multiple categorisations)* | Trans Woman prescribing | **Category: Specialist advice**<br>Trans Woman Medication Prescribing Guidelines |
| **Cyproterone acetate** *(Multiple categorisations)* | Male hypersexuality/ anti-androgen used in the treatment of severe hypersexuality and sexual deviation in the male. | **Category: Specialist only** |
| **Cyproterone acetate** *(Multiple categorisations)* | Prostate cancer | **In line with existing arrangements:**<br>**Specialist initiation** in Barnsley, Doncaster & Rotherham<br>**Shared care** in Sheffield |
| **Chlordiazepoxide** *(Dual categorisation)* | Alcohol withdrawal | **In line with existing arrangements:**<br>**Specialist advice** in Rotherham<br>**Specialist Only** in Barnsley, Doncaster & Sheffield |
| **Paliperidone MR tablets** *(Multiple categorisations)* | Schizophrenia | **In line with existing arrangements:**<br>**Specialist initiation** for Doncaster patients on the SMI register<br>**Shared care** for Doncaster patients not on the SMI register<br>**Specialist only** in Barnsley, Rotherham & Sheffield |
| **Paliperidone depot injection (Byannli® & Xeplion®)** *(Multiple categorisations)* | Schizophrenia | **In line with existing arrangements:**<br>**Specialist initiation** for Doncaster patients on the SMI register<br>**Shared care** for Doncaster patients not on the SMI register<br>**Specialist only** in Barnsley, Rotherham & Sheffield |
| **Disulfiram** *(Multiple categorisations)* | Alcohol disorders - maintenance of abstinence. | **In line with existing arrangements:**<br>**Specialist initiation** in Barnsley and Sheffield<br>**Shared care** in Rotherham<br>**Specialist only** in Doncaster |
| **Semaglutide injection (Ozempic®) and oral tablets (Rybelsus®)**<br>**Liraglutide injection**<br>**Dulaglutide injection (Trulicity®)** | Type 2 diabetes | **In line with existing arrangements:**<br>**Specialist advice** in Barnsley and Sheffield<br>**All settings** in Rotherham and Doncaster<br><br>**Prescribe by brand** |

The South Yorkshire ICB Prescribed Product Classification List can be accessed via SY ICB Medicines Optimisation. All newly reviewed medicines and products are now assigned an SNF category instead of a traffic light status. A summary table detailing the previous and new categorisation criteria and definitions has been developed and is available on the SY MO website.

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

## New Adult treatment pathway for Sodium Zirconium Cyclosilicate (SZC) for persistent hyperkalaemia in patients with Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) (stages 3b-5) or heart failure based on NICE TA1148

**New SY ICB IMOC classification: Specialist initiation (previously red)**

SY ICB IMOC has approved a **new pathway** for sodium zirconium cyclosilicate (SZC) to support the management of persistent hyperkalaemia in adults with chronic kidney disease (CKD) or heart failure, in line with NICE guidance.

Persistent hyperkalaemia can limit the use of renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system inhibitors (RAASi). SZC helps lower potassium levels, enabling eligible patients to continue receiving optimised RAASi therapy where clinically appropriate.

Under the pathway, SZC is initiated by a specialist, with prescribing and monitoring transferred to primary care once patients are stabilised. Clear guidance is provided on patient selection, monitoring requirements, dose adjustment and referral back to specialist services.

The pathway aims to support consistent, safe management of chronic hyperkalaemia across South Yorkshire while helping patients maintain evidence-based treatment for their underlying condition.

**Actions for clinicians:**

- Familiarise yourself with the pathway and monitoring requirements.
- Ensure appropriate monitoring is undertaken following RAASi or SZC dose changes.
- Seek specialist advice where potassium levels remain unstable or where there are concerns regarding treatment optimisation.

For further information, please refer to the pathway.

## Prescribing Guidelines for the use of SGLT2 Inhibitors in the Management of Chronic Heart Failure (minor update)

The guideline has received a minor update to strengthen the message that generic dapagliflozin is the first line SGLT2 inhibitor for the management of patients with chronic heart failure in line with the South Yorkshire position statement for preferred SGLT2 inhibitors.

## Medicines and Patient Safety Update

Penicillin and Penicillamine Allergy Alert

Good progress has been made across South Yorkshire in response to the national patient safety alert on penicillin and penicillamine allergy coding. Reviews have been completed or are underway across organisations, with a significant reduction in potentially incorrect allergy records identified in primary care.

Recording Medication Prescribed Elsewhere on Clinical Practice Systems

IMOC approved a minor update to the South Yorkshire guidance on recording medication prescribed by other healthcare providers. The update clarifies that recording a medicine supports future interaction checking, but interaction alerts are not generated when the medicine is first added to the patient record.

Adult Epilepsy Shared Care Protocol

A minor update to the Adult Epilepsy Shared Care Protocol was approved following new safety advice on cenobamate. Additional liver monitoring requirements have been added to the shared care document. There are no changes to prescribing responsibilities.

Safer Prescribing of Propranolol

IMOC discussed a proposal to develop a more consistent South Yorkshire approach to safer prescribing of propranolol. The South Yorkshire Medicines Safety Group will now consider options to improve consistency in safety information, patient counselling and risk assessment, and will bring recommendations back to IMOC for consideration.

Medicines Safety and Supply Issues

Members received an update on ongoing shortages affecting ramipril capsules and lansoprazole orodispersible tablets, alongside recent medicines safety alerts, medicines defects and MHRA safety communications. No additional actions were required by IMOC at this time.

## Stock Shortages and Discontinued Products

- Chiesi have discontinued Clenil® Modulite® (beclomethasone) 50mcg & 250mcg products and Atimos® (formoterol) 12 mcg. The final UK supply of these products will take place in **October 2026.** For all patients currently prescribed Clenil® 50 mcg, Clenil® 250 mcg or Atimos® 12 mcg, it is recommended that their treatment is reviewed to suitable, clinically effective alternatives at the next available patient interaction.

  *Note that **Soprobec® inhaler** is the preferred brand of beclomethasone pressurised metered dose inhaler across South Yorkshire.*

- Discontinuation of Qufora rectal irrigation systems: Qufora IrriSedo Balloon, Qufora IrriSedo Cone, and Qufora catheter QKCATH 15, will no longer be available for supply after **31 December 2026** and the Qufora IrriSedo Mini will no longer available for supply after **30 March 2027.**

