

2025/2026 Prescribing Incentive Scheme.

The 2025/26 Prescribing Incentive Scheme has been launched. Practices wishing to sign up to the scheme must complete the form by the 31st May 2025 and send it to your named ICB MO pharmacist, email it to cwicb.mot@nhs.net or upload a copy and sign up on CoordinateRx® (formerly MedOptimise®).

Educational webinars with specialists to support the quality options: *Review of high-risk asthma patients (identified as receiving 6 or more Short-acting beta-agonist (SABA) inhalers per year)* and *Appropriate Course Length of Antibiotics*. If you have been unable to attend these live, recordings will be available on CoordinateRx soon.

Topiramate

June's [MHRA Drug Safety Update](#) announced the introduction of a new Pregnancy Prevention Programme for topiramate. Topiramate is now contraindicated in pregnancy and in women of childbearing potential unless the conditions of the PPP are fulfilled.

Risk Awareness Forms for [Migraine](#) and [Epilepsy](#) are available for the healthcare professional and the patient (or responsible person) to sign at initiation of treatment with topiramate and at annual treatment reviews. The patient should receive a copy of this form, a copy should be filed in the patient's medical notes, and, if necessary, a copy sent to the patient's GP

Did you Know? ... APC Updates

The following APC documents were approved at the January 2025 meeting:

- [Primary Care Insomnia Management Pathway for Adults](#)
- [Advice sheet for Primary Care Management of Erectile Dysfunction](#)
- [Needles for Diabetes Medicines](#)
- [C&W Primary Care Adult Antibiotic Guidelines](#)
- [CWICB Gluten Free leaflet & Prescribable Products List \(PPL\)](#)



NICE Asthma Guideline

The new NICE/BTS/SIGN asthma guideline [NG245] was published on 27/11/24. [The guidance](#) aims to modernise asthma management, in particular to support more accurate diagnosis and introduce more effective treatment regimens, to improve outcomes for the 5.4 million people in the UK with asthma.



Key management changes include:

Combination therapy for new diagnoses:

Patients diagnosed with asthma should no longer be prescribed SABA alone.

Preferred inhaler management is with a combination inhaler containing both an inhaled corticosteroid (ICS) and a long-acting beta-agonist (LABA), in particular formoterol, as initial treatment for adults and adolescents with newly diagnosed asthma.

The preferred regimen is Anti-Inflammatory Reliever (AIR) for **mild asthma** and Maintenance and Reliever Therapy (MART) for **moderate asthma**.

AIR - Patients use the same ICS/Formoterol inhaler for reliever (PRN) doses.

MART - Patients use the same ICS/Formoterol inhaler for maintenance (BD) and reliever (PRN) doses.

The local APC guidance is currently being updated in conjunction with the local acute trusts to reflect these updates and will be published later in 2025.

Contact The Medicines Optimisation Team:



cwicb.mot@nhs.net



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