

NI Formulary: Chapter 4 Central Nervous system

Please refer to the full version of the Formulary for further advice and information.

Therapeutic Area	Drug choice
Hypnotics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Non-drug treatment 2 Temazepam tablets 10mg, 20mg; oral solution 10mg/5ml or Zolpidem tablets 5mg, 10mg or Zopiclone 3.75mg, 7.5mg
Anxiolytics -Acute anxiety state	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Non-drug treatment 2 Diazepam tablets 2mg, 5mg, 10mg; oral solution 2mg/5ml
Antidepressant drugs - for treatment of depression	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Citalopram tablets 10mg, 20mg, 40mg; oral drops, citalopram (as hydrochloride) 40mg/ml (4 drops (8mg) is equivalent in therapeutic effect to 10mg tablet) or Fluoxetine capsules 20mg; liquid 20mg/5ml or Sertraline tablets 50mg, 100mg
Antidepressants for treatment of anxiety -Generalised anxiety disorder (GAD), social anxiety disorder	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Non-pharmacological treatment 2 Sertraline tablets 50mg, 100mg [unlicensed indication]
Antidepressants for treatment of anxiety - Panic Disorder	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Non-pharmacological treatment or 2 Citalopram tablets 10mg, 20mg, 40mg or Sertraline tablets 50mg, 100mg
Antidepressants for treatment of anxiety - Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Non-pharmacological or 2 Fluoxetine 20mg capsules [unlicensed indication] or Mirtazepine tablets 15mg, 30mg, 45mg [unlicensed indication]
Antidepressants for treatment of anxiety - Obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Non-pharmacological treatment 2 Citalopram tablets 10mg, 20mg, 40mg [unlicensed indication] or Fluoxetine capsules 20mg; liquid 20mg/5ml or Sertraline tablets 50mg, 100mg
CNS stimulants - Narcolepsy For information - specialist initiation only	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Modafinil tablets 100mg
CNS stimulants - Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) For information - specialist initiation only	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Methylphenidate tablets modified-release 18mg, 27mg, 36mg, 54mg (Delmosart®) 2 Methylphenidate standard release tablets 5mg, 10mg, 20mg
Obesity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Non-pharmacological treatment - diet and lifestyle changes 2 Orlistat capsules 120mg

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Nausea and vomiting <i>- Drugs for the short-term treatment of nausea and vomiting. For Migraine see 4.7.4</i>	1 Prochlorperazine tablets 5mg, buccal tablets 3mg (Reserve buccal tablets for active vomiting) or Domperidone tablets 10mg; suspension 5mg/5ml or Metoclopramide tablets 10mg; oral solution 5mg/5ml; injection 5mg/ml
Nausea and vomiting <i>- Motion sickness</i>	1 Advise patients that medication can be purchased over-the-counter (OTC)
Nausea and vomiting <i>- Opioid-induced (not palliative care)</i>	1 Cyclizine tablets 50mg; injection 50mg/ml or Prochlorperazine tablets 5mg; syrup 5mg/ml; buccal tablets 3mg; injection 12.5mg/ml
Labyrinthine vertigo	1 Cinnarizine tablets 15mg or Prochlorperazine tablets 5mg; syrup 5mg/ml
General management of acute pain <i>(i) Non-opioid and compound analgesics</i> <i>(For dysmenorrhoea, see NIF Chapter 7)</i> <i>(For musculoskeletal and joint pain, including gout, see NIF Chapter 10)</i> <i>(For migraine, see NIF 4.7.4)</i>	1 Paracetamol tablets 500mg 2 Co-codamol 8/500 tablets (codeine 8mg with paracetamol 500mg) Co-codamol 30/500 tablets (codeine 30mg with paracetamol 500mg)
General management of acute pain <i>(ii) Opioid analgesics</i>	1 Morphine Morphine immediate release tablets 10mg, 20mg 50mg; oral solution 10mg/5ml; 100mg/5ml; modified-release tablets, capsules; injection (see BNF) (Prescribe by brand)
Chronic non-malignant pain	1 Paracetamol tablets 500mg 2 Co-codamol 8/500 tablets (codeine 8mg with paracetamol 500mg) Co-codamol 15/500 tablets (codeine 15mg with paracetamol 500mg) Co-codamol 30/500 tablets (codeine 30mg with paracetamol 500mg) +/- NSAID (see NIF 10.1)

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<p>Chronic non-malignant pain (cont..)</p> <p>See guidelines on Morphine equivalence</p>	<p>If pain not resolved in 6 weeks consider Modified Release Preparations</p> <p>1 Tramadol modified release, m/r tablets 50mg, 100mg, 150mg, 200mg; m/r capsules 50mg, 100mg, 150mg, 200mg (Maxitram®) +/- NSAID / Paracetamol or</p> <p>Buprenorphine patch (as a sole agent) Butec® patches, '5' patch (releasing 5 micrograms/ hour), '10' patch (releasing 10 micrograms/hour) '15' patch (releasing 15 micrograms/hour), '20' patch (releasing 20 micrograms/hour)</p> <p>If pain still not adequately controlled consider morphine MR</p> <p>1 Morphine MR modified-release 12-hourly tablets, capsules (see BNF)</p> <p>2 Fentanyl patches, '12' patch (releasing approx. 12 micrograms/hour for 72 hours), '25' patch, '37.5' patch (Mezolar®)</p>
<p>Neuropathic pain (except trigeminal neuralgia)</p>	<p>1 Amitriptyline tablets 10mg, 25mg, 50mg; oral solution 25mg/5ml, 50mg/5ml [unlicensed] or</p> <p>Gabapentin capsules 100mg, 300mg, 400mg</p> <p>2 Duloxetine capsules 30mg, 60mg or</p> <p>Pregabalin capsules 25mg, 50mg, 75mg, 100mg, 150mg, 200mg, 225mg, 300mg</p>
<p>Acute migraine - <i>Treatment of acute attack</i></p>	<p>1 Ibuprofen tablets 200mg, 400mg, 600mg or</p> <p>Paracetamol tablets 500mg</p> <p><i>Plus oral triptan:</i></p> <p>1 Sumatriptan tablets 50mg, 100mg</p> <p>2 Almotriptan tablets 12.5mg</p>
<p>Migraine prophylaxis</p>	<p>1 Propranolol tablets 10mg, 40mg, 80mg, 160mg</p> <p>Propranolol m/r 80mg, 160mg</p> <p>2 Topiramate tablets 25mg, 50mg, 100mg</p>
<p>Cluster headache - Acute attacks</p>	<p>1 Sumatriptan subcutaneous injection 6mg/0.5ml syringe</p>
<p>Cluster headache - Prophylaxis</p>	<p>1 Verapamil tablets 40mg, 80mg, 120mg, 160mg [unlicensed indication] [under specialist supervision]</p>
<p>Control of epilepsy <i>Pharmacological treatment of focal (partial) seizures, with or without secondary generalization</i></p>	<p>1 Carbamazepine m/r tablets 200mg, 400mg Carbamazepine tablets 100mg, 200mg, 400mg; liquid 100mg/5ml Carbamazepine suppositories 125mg, 250mg Or</p> <p>Lamotrigine tablets 25mg, 50mg, 100mg, 200mg</p>

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Control of epilepsy <i>Pharmacological treatment of focal (partial) seizures, with or without secondary generalization (Cont..)</i>	<p>2 Levetiracetam tablets f/c 250mg, 500mg, 750mg, 1g; oral solution 100mg/ml Or Oxcarbazepine tablets 150mg, 300mg, 600mg Or Sodium valproate tablets e/c 200mg, 500mg; m/r 200mg, 300mg, 500mg; oral solution 200mg/5ml [NB Sodium valproate not recommended for women and girls of present and future childbearing potential]</p>
Control of epilepsy <i>Pharmacological treatment of generalised (primary generalized tonic-clonic, absence, myoclonic, tonic, clonic, atonic) and unclassified seizures</i>	<p>1 Sodium valproate tablets e/c 200mg, 500mg; m/r 200mg, 300mg, 500mg; oral solution 200mg/5ml; liquid 200mg/5ml; syrup 200mg/5ml; injection 100mg/ml; intravenous injection 400mg [NB Sodium valproate not recommended for women and girls of present and future childbearing potential] or Lamotrigine tablets 25mg, 50mg, 100mg, 200mg 2 Levetiracetam tablets f/c 250mg, 500mg, 750mg, 1g; oral solution 100mg/ml ; concentrate for intravenous infusion 100mg/ml Or Topiramate tablets 25mg, 50mg, 100mg, 200mg</p>
Drugs used in status epilepticus	<p><i>Step 1 (in community)</i> 1 Midazolam buccal liquid Prescribe by brand 2 Diazepam rectal solution 10mg/2.5ml <i>Step 2 (in hospital)</i> 1 Lorazepam injection 4mg/ml Or Diazepam injection (emulsion) 5mg/ml (Diazemuls®) Or Midazolam buccal liquid NB. To be used only when IV access not available</p> <p><i>Step 3 (In hospital)</i> 1 Fosphenytoin sodium <i>N.B. prescriptions for fosphenytoin sodium should state the dose in terms of phenytoin sodium equivalent (PE), fosphenytoin sodium 1.5mg ≡ phenytoin sodium 1mg</i> Or Phenytoin sodium injection 50mg/ml</p> <p>2 Phenobarbital (phenobarbitone) injection 200mg/ml</p>

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Dopaminergic drugs used in parkinsonism - Dopamine receptor agonists	1 Ropinirole tablets 250 micrograms, 1mg, 2mg, 5mg; Ropinirole tablets m/r 2mg, 4mg, 8mg (Spirioco XL® cost effective brand) or Pramipexole tablets 88 micrograms base (125 micrograms salt), 180micrograms base (250 micrograms salt), 350micrograms base (500micrograms salt), 700micrograms base (1mg salt); pramipexole tablets m/r 260micrograms, 520 micrograms, 1.05mg, 1.57mg, 2.1mg, 2.62mg, 3.15mg (See BNF for equivalent strengths in terms of pramipexole dihydrochloride monohydrate salt)
Dopaminergic drugs used in parkinsonism - Levodopa	1 Co-beneldopa (Madopar®) containing levodopa and benserazide Or Co-careldopa (Sinemet®) containing levodopa and carbidopa
Dopaminergic drugs used in parkinsonism - Monoamine-oxidase-B (MAOB) inhibitors	1 Rasagiline tablets 1mg Or Selegiline tablets 5mg, 10mg; oral lyophilisate 1.25mg
Dopaminergic drugs used in parkinsonism - Dopamine enzyme inhibitors / catechol-O-methyltransferase inhibitors (COMT inhibitors)	1 Entacapone tablets 200mg 2 Tolcapone 100mg tablets
Antimuscarinic drugs used in parkinsonism	1 Procyclidine tablets 5mg or Trihexyphenidyl hydrochloride tablets 2mg, 5mg
Intractable hiccups	1 Chlorpromazine tablets 25mg, 50mg; oral solution 25mg/5ml
Essential tremor or tremors associated with anxiety or thyrotoxicosis	1 Propranolol tablets 10mg, 40mg, 80mg, 160mg, capsules m/r 80mg, 160mg
Management of dementia in Parkinson's disease	1 Non drug treatment - see Prescribing Notes 2 Rivastigmine capsules 1.5mg, 3mg, 4.5mg, 6mg; oral solution 2mg/ml
Drugs used in substance dependence - Opioid maintenance prescribing	<u>For information only: Usual drugs prescribed for substitute prescribing</u> 1 Buprenorphine sublingual tablets 400micrograms, 2mg, 8mg or Suboxone® (sublingual) - buprenorphine 2mg/naloxone 500micrograms tablets, buprenorphine 8mg/naloxone 2mg tablets (Reserve Suboxone® for when there is a risk of dose diversion for parenteral administration) or Methadone oral solution 1mg/ml

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Benzodiazepines addiction and withdrawal	1 Diazepam tablets 2mg, 5mg, 10mg
Alcohol dependance - Assisted alcohol withdrawal for moderate to severe alcohol dependence	1 Chlordiazepoxide capsules 5mg, 10mg; tablets 10mg AND psychosocial support Or <i>In-patient only if withdrawal seizures occur:</i> Diazepam emulsion injection 5ml/ml (Diazemuls®) AND psychosocial support
Alcohol dependance - Relapse Prevention	1 Acamprosate (Campral EC®) tablets e/c 333mg AND a psychological intervention , e.g. CBT, behavioural therapies, social network and environment-based therapies, or behavioural couples therapy or Naltrexone tablets 50mg (initiated under specialist advice) AND a psychological intervention [unlicensed indication] On specialist advice 2 Disulfiram tablets 200mg AND a psychological intervention On specialist advice
Alcohol Dependance -vitamin supplementation Oral Prophylaxis	<u>Low risk of Wernicke's Encephalopathy (WE)</u> 1 Thiamine (vitamin B1) tablets 100mg
Alcohol dependance - Vitamin supplementation Parenteral Prophylaxis	1 Parenteral vitamins B and C (Pabrinex®) Intramuscular High Potency injection Or Parenteral vitamins B and C (Pabrinex®) Intravenous High Potency injection Refer to section 4.10d of NIF website for dosage information
Cigarette smoking	1 Behavioural support + nicotine replacement therapy (long-acting) patch 5mg, 10mg, 15mg or 25mg over 16 hours, 7mg, 14mg or 21mg over 24 hours or Behavioural support + nicotine replacement therapy (short-acting) gum, lozenge, sublingual tablet, mouth spray, nasal spray, inhalator, orodispersible film; nicotine chewing gum 2mg, 4mg, 6mg; nicotine lozenges 1mg, 1.5mg, 2mg, 4mg, sublingual nicotine tablets 2mg, nicotine mouth spray 1mg/spray, nicotine nasal spray 500micrograms/spray, nicotine inhalator 15mg/cartridge, nicotine 2.5mg orodispersible film

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Cigarette smoking (cont...)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Varenicline f/c tablets 500 micrograms, 1mg 3 Bupropion hydrochloride 150mg m/r, f/c tablets
Drugs for dementia - Mild to moderate dementia in Alzheimer's disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Donepezil tablets 5mg, 10mg; orodispersible tablets 5mg, 10mg 2 Galantamine m/r capsules 8mg, 16mg, 24mg or Rivastigmine capsules 1.5mg, 3mg, 4.5mg, 6mg; patch 4.6mg/24 hours and 9.5mg/24 hours
Drugs for dementia - Moderate to severe dementia in Alzheimer's disease or moderate dementia in Alzheimer's disease for people who cannot take AchE inhibitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Memantine tablets 10mg, 20mg; treatment initiation pack 7x5mg, 7x10mg, 7x15mg and 7x20mg; oral drops 5mg/actuation
Alzheimer's disease Management of Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia (BPSD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Non-drug treatment / watchful waiting 2 Risperidone tablets 500micrograms, 1mg; liquid 1mg/ml