

Cost effective choices should be considered for all new starts and for suitable existing patients.

The items associated with the greatest efficiencies should be prioritised by all practices in addition to the practice-specific list on page 5 of the COMPASS report.

Note: the cost-effective choice may not be suitable for all patients. Prescribers should refer to the SPC, the BNF/BNFC, and the relevant SPPG guidance / SOP / newsletter article before initiating or switching.

June 2026

Therapeutic area	Drugs	Cost-Effective Choice(s) (CEC)
Greatest efficiencies	All DPP-4 inhibitors ('gliptins')	→ Sitagliptin
	Seretide® / Sirdupla® / Generic fluticasone propionate / salmeterol pMDI	→ Avenor® pMDI or Combisal® pMDI
	Fostair® and generic beclometasone/formoterol pMDIs 100/6 and 200/6	→ Luforbec® 100/6 and 200/6 or Proxor® 100/6 and 200/6
	Spiriva Handihaler® / Braltus Zonda® / Generic tiotropium DPIs	→ Acopair NeumoHaler® or Tiogiva®
	Melatonin capsules	→ Melatonin tablets For Paediatric patients, Adaflex® tablets are the preferred choice if immediate release formulation required. Refer to Melatonin Paediatric Product Selection Guide
	HYLO-Tear® / HYLO-Forte®	→ Eyeaze® 0.1% / Eyeaze® 0.2%
	Gabapentin 600mg tablets Gabapentin 800mg tablets	→ Gabapentin 2 x 300mg capsules → Gabapentin 2 x 400mg capsules
	White soft paraffin 13.2%, light liquid paraffin 10.5%, e.g. CetraBen® cream	→ Epimax® excetra cream
	ALL NSAID gels (e.g. piroxicam gel, diclofenac gels (all strengths except 3%), ibuprofen 10% gels)	→ Ibuprofen 5% gel
Gastrointestinal	All dispersible PPIs tablets / sachets	→ Lansoprazole orodispersible tablets
	Gaviscon®, Gaviscon Advance®	→ Peptac®
	Loperamide orodispersible tablets	→ Loperamide capsules
	Movicol® paediatric 6.9g sachets	→ Laxido® paediatric plain 6.9g sachets
	Dicycloverine tablets	→ Mebeverine tablets
	Peppermint oil 0.2ml gastro-resistant modified-release capsules / Colpermin® capsules	→ Peppermint oil 0.2ml gastro-resistant capsules
	Omeprazole gastro-resistant tablets	→ Omeprazole gastro-resistant capsules
	Proctosedyl® ointment	→ Uniroid HC® ointment or Anusol HC® ointment
Cardiovascular	Doxazosin XL tablets	→ Doxazosin immediate release (IR) tablets (doxazosin XL 4mg to IR 2mg tablets; doxazosin XL 8mg to IR 4mg tablets)
	Perindopril arginine	→ Perindopril erbumine / tert-butylamine
	Nebivolol 2.5mg tablets	→ Nebivolol 5mg tablets (half tablet)
	Nebivolol 10mg tablets	→ Nebivolol 5mg tablets (two tablets)
Respiratory	Levocetirizine / Xyzal® tablets 5mg	→ Cetirizine 10mg tablets
	Desloratadine / NeoClarity® tablets 5mg	→ Loratadine 10mg tablets
Nervous system	Co-codamol 8/500 capsules Co-codamol 15/500 capsules	→ Co-codamol 8/500 tablets → Co-codamol 15/500 tablets
	Paracetamol 500mg/5ml suspension	→ Paracetamol 250mg/5ml suspension
	Nortriptyline 50mg tablets	→ Nortriptyline 2 x 25mg tablets
	Lamotrigine multiple tablets (e.g. 25mg x 4 tablets)* Lamictal® multiple tablets (e.g. 25mg x 4 tablets)*	→ Lamotrigine higher strength (e.g. 100mg x 1 tablet) → Lamictal® higher strength (e.g. 100mg x 1 tablet)
*Strengths of 5mg, 25mg, 50mg, 100mg should all be checked for dose optimisation. Please refer to newsletter for further details. Note: only switch patients who are stable on an established effective dose that controls seizures.		
Endocrine	Metformin IR 1g tablets	→ Metformin IR 2 x 500mg tablets

Therapeutic area	Drugs	Cost-Effective Choice(s) (CEC)
Contraception, gynaecology, and urinary-tract disorders	Gonadotrophin-releasing hormone analogues for prostate cancer (e.g. Zoladex [®] , Prostav [®])	→ Decapeptyl [®] SR 3mg / 11.25mg / 22.5mg IM injections
	Tamsulosin 400 microgram MR tablets (including all generics and Flomaxtra [®])	→ Tamsulosin 400 microgram MR capsules
	Monophasic standard strength combined oral contraceptive (e.g. Microgynon [®] , Ovranette [®])	→ Rigevidon[®]
	Monophasic low strength combined oral contraceptive (e.g. Mercilon [®] , Femodette [®])	→ Gedarel 20/150[®]
	Estriol 0.01% cream	→ Estriol 0.1% cream Note: Estriol 0.1% intravaginal cream is 10 times stronger than estriol 0.01% intravaginal cream. However the application volume is one tenth. Therefore, both creams' application volumes deliver an identical dose of estriol, i.e. 0.5mg per application. Further information can be found here
Skin Use comparable products from the Epimax[®] range which have a similar formulation	White soft paraffin 15% w/w, liquid paraffin 6% cream, e.g. Diprobase [®] cream (now discontinued)	→ Epimax [®] original cream
	Avena Sativa (oat) Kernel flour containing cream, e.g. Aveeno [®] cream	→ Epimax [®] oatmeal cream