

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

The top 5 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.

Patient information leaflets to support cost-effective choices are available on the [NI Formulary website](#).

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.

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Therapeutic area	Drugs	Cost-Effective Choice(s) (CEC)
Top 5 biggest efficiencies	Esomeprazole tablets	→ Esomeprazole capsules
	Venlafaxine 75mg modified release capsules	→ Venlafaxine 75mg modified release tablets new
	Venlafaxine 150mg modified release capsules	→ Venlafaxine 150mg modified release tablets new
	Buprenorphine patches '5', '10', '15', '20'	→ Butec [®] patches '5', '10', '15', '20'
	All dispersible PPIs tablets / sachets	→ Lansoprazole orodispersible tablets
	Spiriva HandiHaler [®] / tiotropium dry powder inhaler	→ Low cost LAMA DPIs (Bratus Zonda[®], Incruse Ellipta[®], or Seebri Breezhaler[®])
Gastrointestinal	Gaviscon [®] , Gaviscon Advance [®] , Maalox [®] , Maalox Plus [®]	→ Peptac [®]
	Loperamide orodispersible tablets	→ Loperamide capsules
	Asacol [®] / mesalazine MR 400mg/800mg	→ Octasa[®] 400mg/800mg tablets
	Gaviscon [®] , Gaviscon Advance [®] , Maalox [®] , Maalox Plus [®]	→ Peptac [®] liquid
	Movicol [®] paediatric 6.9g sachets	→ Laxido [®] paediatric plain 6.9g sachets
	Dicycloverine tablets	→ Mebeverine tablets
	Omeprazole gastro-resistant tablets	→ Omeprazole gastro-resistant capsules
	Loperamide orodispersible tablets	→ Loperamide 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
Respiratory	Steroid nasal sprays	→ Beclometasone 50 micrograms /dose nasal spray (200 dose) or mometasone 50 micrograms/dose nasal spray (140 dose)
	Levocetirizine / Xyzal [®] tablets 5mg	→ Cetirizine 10mg tablets
	Desloratadine / NeoClarityn [®] tablets 5mg	→ Loratadine 10mg tablets
Nervous system	Melatonin capsules	→ Melatonin tablets new For Paediatric patients, Adaflex tablets are the preferred choice if immediate release formulation required. Refer to Melatonin Paediatric Product Selection Guide
	Oxycodone MR / Oxycontin [®] tablets	→ Longtec [®] tablets
	Oxycodone IR / Oxynorm [®] capsules	→ Shortec [®] capsules
	All fentanyl patches	→ Mezolar Matrix [®] patches
	Tramadol MR tablets / capsules	→ Maxitram [®] capsules
	Rizatriptan oral lyophilisate (Maxalt Melt [®])	→ Zolmitriptan orodispersible (Zomig Rapimelt [®])
	Eletriptan, frovatriptan	→ Sumatriptan / naratriptan / zolmitriptan
	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)*	→ Lamotrigine higher strength (e.g. 100mg x 1 tablet)
Lamictal [®] multiple tablets (e.g. 25mg x 4 tablets)*	→ 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 MR tablets	→ Metformin IR tablets
Contraception, gynaecology, and urinary-tract disorders	Luteinizing hormone releasing hormone analogues	→ Decapeptyl [®] SR 3mg / 11.25mg / 22.5mg IM injections
	Tolterodine MR capsules	→ Neditol [®] XL capsules
	Monophasic standard strength combined oral contraceptive	→ Rigevidon[®]
	Monophasic low strength combined oral contraceptive	→ Gedarel 20/150[®] or Millinette 20/75[®]
	Progesterone only contraceptive	→ Cerelle[®]
Skin	Isopropyl myristate 15%, liquid paraffin 15% w/w, e.g. Doublebase [®] gel	→ MyriBase [®] gel