

Formulary Focus

West of Scotland Formulary Development – April 2026

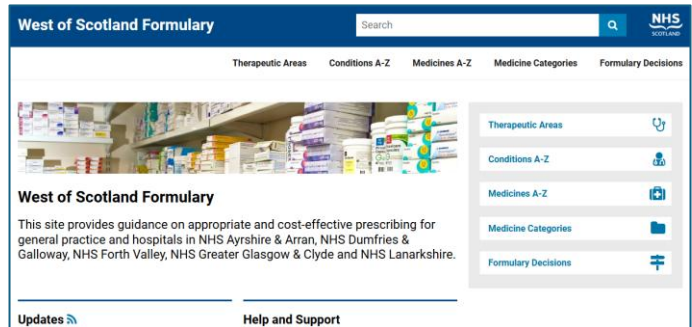
Launch of First Formulary Chapters

Work to develop a regional formulary for the West of Scotland has reached a significant milestone with the first chapters launching on 15 April 2026. Formulary recommendations for the **Gastro-intestinal** and **Respiratory** chapters are first to go live, with additional chapters scheduled to launch every two months following these. This milestone also sees the new formulary website go live at:

formulary.nhs.scot/west

We've prepared a short [user guide video](#) to introduce the website's layout and features.

As we progress through chapter development for the regional formulary, recommendations for chapters that have yet to be launched regionally will still be available on your local formulary website as normal.



Navigating the New Formulary

The formulary has evolved from a traditional BNF structured 'list of medicines' to presenting recommendations using a condition-based structure. This aligns formulary choices to the treatment of the patient. Formulary recommendations are detailed on condition-specific pages, with individual 'Pathway' sections highlighting different aspects of treatment. As the formulary develops, these pathways will show Adult, Child and Pharmacy First recommendations as indicated by these icons:



Adult recommendations



Child recommendations



Pharmacy First recommendations

The new website offers a variety of navigation options to help you locate formulary recommendations. All are available from the menu bar at the top of the screen, so can be accessed wherever you are on the site. A clever search facility, with suggestions as you type, is also available to make finding formulary content easier.

	Conditions A-Z	Access formulary recommendations by medical condition, using a simple A-Z index. This is the quickest method of reaching formulary choices.
	Therapeutic Areas	Explore formulary recommendations by Therapeutic Area (chapter). Simply select a chapter name from the list and then browse to the condition-based recommendations.
	Medicines A-Z	Use a simple A-Z index to check whether a medicine is on the formulary. Selecting a generic medicine name will then tell you which condition(s) it is on formulary to treat, allowing you to view the medicine in context.
	Medicine Categories	If you'd like to browse the formulary using the legacy BNF medicine categories, you can do this here.

Helpful Features

Understanding Flags and Icons

As you browse the website and mobile app you will see various flags, symbols and icons.



Simply hover your mouse over the image (or tap the image when using a mobile device) and a description will appear on screen.



dm+d Medicine Descriptions

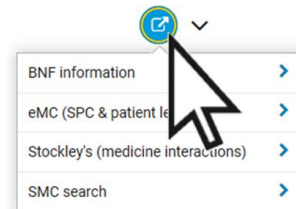
The new platform uses the 'Dictionary of Medicines and Devices' (dm+d). This is a dictionary of descriptions and codes representing medicines and devices used across the NHS.

dm+d provides a recognised standard for uniquely identifying the items used in patient care. All formulations detailed on the formulary use the dm+d descriptions, providing consistency and supporting the future use of formulary data in other systems.

Paracetamol
Paracetamol 500mg tablets
Paracetamol 500mg suppositories

Easy Access to Additional Resources

Each medicine listed on the formulary has a 'quick links' button. This provides direct access to the BNF monograph for that specific medicine, as well as enabling a quick search of the eMC website (for SPC and PILs), Stockley's (for interactions) or SMC advice.



Quick Access to Formulary Decisions

The website contains purpose-built functionality for locating Formulary Committee decisions on new medicines and formulary applications.

This section does not contain a full list of formulary recommendations but instead focuses on the outcome of decisions made by the new regional Formulary Committee (e.g. new SMC advice, requests to amend the formulary, etc.)

Mobile App

The 'NHS Scotland Formulary' mobile app has been designed to be used across multiple Health Boards, so provides access to both the new West of Scotland Formulary and the existing East Region Formulary.

The design of the app matches the website to provide a consistent experience, and it can be used offline. A short [user guide video](#) has been prepared to introduce the app.

You can download the app by searching for 'NHS Scotland Formulary' in the Apple or Google Play app stores.



Chapter Schedule

Work is progressing well on the next four chapters of the formulary. We hope to be able to launch these chapters in the coming months. The estimated timelines are:

May – Cardiovascular and Skin
July – Endocrine and Infections

The next chapter to commence development is **Central Nervous System**. We're keen to ensure this work is informed by expertise from across the five Health Boards in the West of Scotland. If you have an interest in this chapter, please get involved by nominating yourself via this [short form](#).

Get in Touch

If you've any questions, please contact the Project Team at: WoS.Formulary@nhs.scot