

East Region Formulary Update — August 2023

Website Launched for all Three Boards

Over the last two years colleagues from NHS Borders, NHS Fife and NHS Lothian have been working to develop Scotland's first regional formulary.

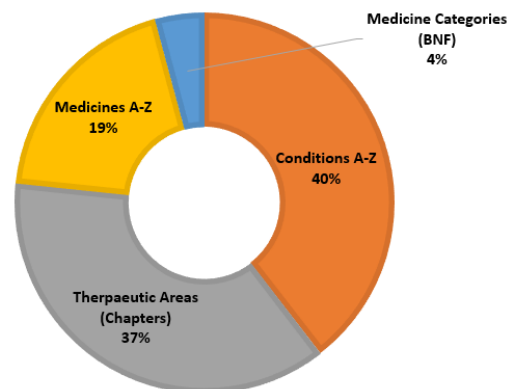
With all the core content for the adult formulary now agreed and approved by the East Region Formulary Committee, all three Boards started to use the formulary website and mobile app in May 2023.

To support new users we developed two short videos (less than 4 minutes each) to demonstrate some of the functionality of the website and mobile app. These can be accessed on the [User guides and videos](#) page of the website. Further details on the new website are also available in our [May 2023 update](#).

Website Usage (30 day period over July-August 2023)



Preferred Browsing Options



Most Visited Condition Pages: UTI, Type 2 Diabetes, Asthma, Menopausal Symptoms, Cellulitis

Development of Paediatric Content

Work on paediatric chapters has started. The cardiology chapter is live on the website. The gastrointestinal chapter and respiratory chapter are being presented to East Region Formulary Committee for approval at the August meeting. The website will be updated once approved. There are dates in the diary for the CNS working groups in August.

If you are keen to be involved in any of the forthcoming Chapter Expert Working Groups (including therapeutic areas not mentioned here), please note your interest with your local formulary pharmacist. We need to have a primary care perspective on the working groups — you don't need to be an expert in the therapeutic area, just a keen interest.

Mobile App



The East Region Formulary is also available via a mobile app. The 'NHS Scotland Formulary' app has been designed to be used by multiple Health Boards, with the East Region being the first to access the new platform.

Like the new formulary website, the mobile app presents condition-based formulary recommendations. The design of the app matches the website to provide a consistent experience and it can also be used offline. You can download the app by searching for 'NHS Scotland Formulary' in the Apple or Google Play app stores.

Note: when launching the app for the first time, some on-screen text advises the app is being used in NHS Lothian only. This will be corrected soon. The app can be used in NHS Borders, Fife and Lothian.

East Region Working Group (ERWG) and East Region Formulary Committee (ERFC)

Future dates for these meetings are noted in the table below.

East Region Working Group (ERWG) Meeting dates	East Region Formulary Committee (ERFC) Meeting dates
20 September 2023 22 November 2023 17 January 2024	11 October 2023 13 December 2023 7 February 2024

Formulary Applications

Formulary applications (FAF1s, FAF2s and formulary amendments) should be submitted 2 weeks before ERFC, to meet the submission deadline. Formulary applications for off-label or unlicensed medicines (FAF3s) should be submitted to ERWG first. Again submission date for papers is 2 weeks before the meeting.

Please remember that **all formulary application forms need to include patient numbers from all three boards. Support from the appropriate Clinical Director (or equivalent) must be included.**

Clinical teams will need to work together in completing the forms. The formulary teams can help with identifying contacts in the other boards if that is required. Support in identifying contacts where needed should be sought before submitting the paperwork.

The forms that are required for these applications can all be found [on our website](#).

The ERWG and ERFC **will not accept any papers for meetings that are not complete at the point of submissions. Late papers will not as a rule be accepted.** If there is an urgent request please contact your formulary pharmacist.

We have had a number of submissions recently that have been developed in one Board area without consultation or conversations with the other board areas. This has meant that ERFC has not been able to make a decision for use across the region. It is not possible to approve a medicine for use for example in NHS Borders only.

In theory if clinicians in the different boards weren't in agreement about whether the medicines has a place in therapy – all the information would be taken to ERFC and a decision would be made there. For example you could 2 wanting to use and 1 not, or 1 wanting to use and 2 not. ERFC would likely want to understand the reasons for differing positions.

Previous Updates on the East Region Formulary

June 2020	Regional Formulary Project Update
March 2021	Regional Formulary Project Update
September 2021	Regional Formulary Project Update
December 2021	Regional Formulary Project Update
May 2022	Regional Formulary Project Update
May 2023	East Region Formulary Update

Lothian Prescribing Bulletin articles;

[Sep 2020](#), [July 2021](#), [Sep 2021](#), [Jan 2022](#), [Mar 2022](#), [July 2022](#), [Sep 2022](#), [Jan 2023](#), [Mar 2023](#)

Contact Us

Contact us [through the website](#) or by emailing prescribing@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk where your email will be passed on to the most appropriate person.