



Brighton and Hove Clinical Commissioning Group
 High Weald Lewes Havens Clinical Commissioning Group
 Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust

JOINT FORMULARY
CHAPTER 2 - CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM

[Formulary home page](#)

Non-Specialist Drugs	Specialist Initiation WITHOUT Shared Care Guidelines	Specialist Initiation WITH Shared Care Guidelines	Specialist ONLY Drugs
Suitable for <u>non-specialist</u> initiation.	For specialist initiation or recommendation only and specific on going monitoring (if required) but can then be prescribed by a GP <u>without</u> a shared care guideline.	For specialist initiation only and specific ongoing monitoring but can then be prescribed by GP <u>with</u> a shared care guideline.	For initiation and continuation (including monitoring) by a <u>specialist only</u> .
2.1	Positive inotropic drugs		
2.2	Diuretics		
2.3	Anti-arrhythmic drugs		
2.4	Beta-adrenoceptor blocking drugs		
2.5	Drugs affecting the renin-angiotensin system and some other antihypertensive drug		
2.6	Nitrates, calcium-channel blockers, and other anti-anginal drugs		
2.7	Sympathomimetics		
2.8	Anticoagulants and protamine		
2.9	Antiplatelet drugs		
2.10	Myocardial infarction and fibrinolysis		
2.11	Antifibrinolytic drugs and haemostatics		
2.12	Lipid-lowering drugs		
Version Control			
Date of revision	Sections reviewed	Contributors	
09/11	All sections - Initial review	Dr S Glaspole	
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05/18	Amendments following the publication of NHSE guidance on conditions for which prescriptions could potentially be restricted	APC working group	

Ctrl-f will activate the search window.

2.1 Positive inotropic drugs (back to top)		
2.1.1 Cardiac glycosides		
Digoxin	Tablets 62.5 micrograms, 125 micrograms, 250 micrograms Elixir 50 micrograms/ml Injection 100 micrograms in 1ml, 500 micrograms in 2ml	Elixir for patients with swallowing difficulties.
Digibind or Digifab	Injection	Occasionally necessary in hospital to treat digoxin toxicity
2.1.2 Phosphodiesterase inhibitors		
Milrinone	Injection 10mg in 10ml	Restricted to cardiology and critical care
2.2 Diuretics (back to top)		
Hypertension in Adults Medicines Optimisation Guide for Primary Care Prescribers		
2.2.1 Thiazide and related diuretics		
Bendroflumethiazide	Tablets 2.5mg	NICE hypertension guidelines 2011 . Continue for existing patients if blood pressure controlled.
Indapamide	Tablets 2.5mg Tablets 1.5mg MR	NICE hypertension guidelines 2011 . First choice diuretic for hypertension. 2.5mg tablets are more cost effective than 1.5mg MR tablets.
Metolazone	Tablets 5mg	Usually 2.5mg dose. Reserved for resistant oedema / heart failure, under specialist supervision
Chlorothiazide	Suspension 250mg in 5ml	Restricted to paediatrics. Named patient use only.
2.2.2 Loop diuretics		
Furosemide	Tablets 20mg, 40mg, 500mg Liquid 1mg in 1ml, 40mg in 5ml Injection 20mg in 2 ml, 50mg in 5ml, 250mg in 25ml	Liquid for patients with swallowing difficulties. Injection - Restricted use in Primary Care for GP emergency bag and for those patients under the care of the hospital at home team.
Bumetanide	Tablets 1mg, 5mg	
2.2.3 Potassium-sparing diuretics		
Amiloride	Tablets 5mg SF Liquid 5mg in 5ml	Liquid for patients with swallowing difficulties.
The preferential aldosterone antagonist for heart failure NYHA class 3 and above is spironolactone.		
Spironolactone	Tablets 25mg, 50mg, 100mg Suspension 5mg/5ml, 50mg/5ml	NICE In heart failure, doses 25-50mg once a day. Higher doses used in ascites.
Eplerenone	Tablets 25mg, 50mg	Licensed in NYHA class 2 - 4 heart failure. NICE for secondary prevention post MI: Heart failure post MI
2.2.4 Potassium-sparing diuretics with other diuretics		
Co-amilofruse	Tablets 2.5/20 and 5/40	
Co-amilozide	Tablets 2.5/25 and 5/50	
2.2.5 Osmotic diuretics		
Mannitol	Infusion 10% and 20% - 500 ml	

	Available to buy Over The Counter. See policy statement for more info.	Non-Specialist Drugs	Specialist Initiation WITHOUT Shared Care Guidelines	Specialist Initiation WITH Shared Care Guidelines	Specialist ONLY Drugs
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2.3 Anti-arrhythmic drugs (back to top)		
Amiodarone	Tablets 100mg, 200mg Pre-filled syringe 300mg in 10 ml Injection 150mg in 3 ml	
Atropine	Pre-filled syringe 1mg/10 ml Injection 600mcg/1ml	Restricted use in Primary Care for GP emergency bag
Disopyramide	Capsules 100mg Tablets modified release 250mg	Consultant cardiologist recommendation only
Dronedarone	Tablets 400mg	NICE TA 197 Consultant cardiologist recommendation only. See SPC for monitoring requirements
Flecainide	Tablets 50mg, 100mg Injection 150mg in 15 ml	See BSUH guidance
Ajmaline	50mg injection	For diagnosis of Brugada syndrome. Cardiology consultant use only BSUH guidance . Unlicensed.
Mexiletine	Capsules 167mg (Namuscla)	Cardiology use only.
Propafenone	Tablets 150mg, 300mg	Consultant cardiologist recommendation only.
Sotalol	Tablets 40mg, 80mg	Restricted for the management of arrhythmias
Adenosine	Injection 6mg in 2ml Injection Adenoscan® 30mg in 10ml	
Regadenoson	Injection (Rapiscan®)	Nuclear medicine only
Lidocaine	Injection 1% 10ml Infusion 0.4% in 5% Glucose (500 ml) Injection (pre-filled syringe) 100mg in 5ml	Link to BSUH guidance

2.4 Beta-adrenoceptor blocking drugs (back to top)		
Atenolol	Tablets 25mg, 50mg, 100mg Syrup 25mg/5ml	
Bisoprolol	Tablets 1.25mg, 3.75mg, 2.5mg, 5mg, 7.5mg, 10mg	Hypertension in Adults Medicines Optimisation Guide for Primary Care Prescribers 1 st choice beta-blocker in heart failure NICE
Labetalol	Tablets 100mg, 200mg, 400mg Injection 100mg in 20 ml	Oral - Hypertension in pregnancy only IV for hypertensive emergencies NICE
Propranolol	Tablets 10mg, 40mg, 80mg Capsules M/R 80mg, 160mg Mixture 50mg in 5ml Injection 1mg in 1ml	Thyrotoxicosis, migraine and anxiety only
Carvedilol	Tablets 3.125mg, 6.25mg, 12.5mg, 25mg	Heart failure only – alternative to bisoprolol NICE
Metoprolol	Tablets 50mg, 100mg Injection 5mg in 5ml	If short acting beta-blocker required.
Nebivolol	Tablets 5mg	Heart failure only for patients aged over 70 years. Use 5mg tablets and halve if lower doses are required as more cost effective than the 2.5mg tablets.
Esmolol	Injection 100mg/10 ml, 2.5g/10ml	

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2.5 Drugs affecting the renin-angiotensin system and some other antihypertensive drugs [\(back to top\)](#)

2.5.1 Vasodilator antihypertensive drugs

Hydralazine	Tablets 25mg, 50mg Injection 20mg	
Sodium Nitroprusside	50mg vial	BSUH guidance unlicensed
Bosentan	Tablets 62.5mg, 125mg	Contact cardiology for advice
Sildenafil	Tablets 20mg Oral suspension 10mg/ ml Injection 10mg/ 12.5ml vial	Contact cardiology for advice
Tadalafil	Tablets 20mg	Contact cardiology for advice
Iloprost	Nebuliser solution 10 micrograms/ ml	Contact cardiology for advice
Ambrisentan	Tablets 5mg, 10mg	Contact cardiology for advice
Macitentan	Tablets 10mg	Contact cardiology for advice
Riociguat	Tablets 0.5mg, 1mg, 1.5mg, 2mg, 2.5mg	Contact cardiology for advice
Epoprostenol	Injection for infusion 500microgram, 1.5mg vial	Contact cardiology for advice

2.5.2 Centrally acting antihypertensive drugs

Methyldopa	Tablets 125mg, 250mg, 500mg	GREEN = for use in maternity BLUE = for all other indications
Moxonidine	Tablets 200 and 400 micrograms	Hypertension: (4 th line if intolerable SEs to other anti-hypertensives)
Clonidine	Injection 150 micrograms/ml	Critical care only

2.5.3 Adrenergic neurone blocking drugs

Guanethidine	Injection 10mg in 1ml	
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2.5.4 Alpha-adrenoreceptor blocking drugs

Doxazosin	Tablets 1mg, 2mg, 4mg	Hypertension in Adults Medicines Optimisation Guide for Primary Care Prescribers 4 th line in hypertension as per NICE . MR tablets are BLACK on the formulary. See Doxazosin entry in BNF for prescribing information on BPH
Phenoxy-benzamine	Capsule 10mg Injection 50mg/ml	Phaeochromocytoma
Phentolamine	Injection 10mg in 1ml	Cardiothoracic only
Papaverine injection	Injection	Unlicensed in UK

2.5.5 Drugs affecting the renin-angiotensin system

2.5.5.1 Angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors

[Hypertension in Adults Medicines Optimisation Guide for Primary Care Prescribers](#)

[MHRA safety alert](#) - Combination use of ACE inhibitors and ARB/aliskiren

Captopril	Tablets 12.5mg	For initiation only when short acting agent required – change to alternative first line drug if tolerated
Lisinopril	Tablets 2.5mg, 5mg, 10mg, 20mg	Existing patients only
Enalapril	Tablets 5mg, 10mg, 20mg	Existing patients and drug of choice for post-natal BP and breastfeeding. NICE NG133
Ramipril	Capsules 1.25mg, 2.5mg, 5mg, 10mg 2.5mg/5ml oral solution sugar free	NICE Oral solution for patients with swallowing difficulties
Perindopril erbumine	Tablets 2mg, 4mg, 8mg	

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2.5.5.2 Angiotensin-II receptor antagonists (ARBs)		
Hypertension in Adults Medicines Optimisation Guide for Primary Care Prescribers		
ARBs are an alternative if ACE inhibitors are not tolerated due to cough.		
MHRA safety alert - Combination use of ACE inhibitors and ARB/aliskiren		
Candesartan	Tablets 2mg, 4mg, 8mg, 16mg, 32mg	NICE ARB in heart failure
	BLUE =Combination therapy with ACE inhibitor	
Irbesartan	Tablets 75mg, 150mg, 300mg	Reno vascular protection, diabetes.
Losartan	Tablets 25mg, 50mg, 100mg Oral suspension 12.5mg/5mL	NICE First choice ARB in hypertension. Oral suspension for patients with swallowing difficulties only.
Losartan plus diuretic	Tablets Losartan/ Hydrochlorothiazide 50mg/12.5mg and 100mg/25mg	Primary care only MHRA safety alert
Valsartan with sacubitril	Tablets sacubitril/ valsartan 24mg / 26mg, 49mg / 51mg, 97mg / 103 mg	Heart failure specialist initiation only as per NICE TA388 Do not use in combination with an ACE inhibitor or any additional ARB.

2.6 Nitrates, calcium-channel blockers, and potassium channel activators [\(back to top\)](#)

2.6.1 Nitrates		
Glyceryl trinitrate	Spray 400 micrograms Tablets 500 micrograms Patches 5mg/24hours and 10mg/24hrs Injection 5mg in 5ml, 50mg in 10ml	Patches only for use in patients who cannot take oral therapies
Isosorbide mononitrate	Tablets 10mg, 20mg Modified release tablets 60mg	Monomil XL[®] is the preferred brand for MR tablets
Isosorbide dinitrate injection	10mg injection	Cardiac cath labs only – intra-arterial use

2.6.2 Calcium-channel blockers

Hypertension in Adults Medicines Optimisation Guide for Primary Care Prescribers		
Amlodipine	Tablets 5mg, 10mg	1st line choice
Felodipine	Tablets MR 2.5mg, 5mg, 10mg	
Diltiazem	Tildiem Modified Release tablets 60mg	Prescribing by brand (Tildiem MR) is more cost effective to the NHS. Administered twice or three times daily.
	Zemtard XL capsules 120mg,180mg, 240mg, 300mg Adizem XL capsules, 120mg, 180mg, 200mg, 240mg, 300mg Tildiem LA capsules 200mg, 300mg	Zemtard XL[®] is the preferred brand for new patients. Once a day diltiazem longer acting preparations.
	Adizem SR capsules 90mg, 120mg, 180mg Adizem SR tablets 120mg Tildiem Retard MR tablets 90mg,120mg	Twice a day diltiazem longer acting preparations
Verapamil	Tablets 40mg, 80mg Modified release tablets 120mg Half Securon SR [®] , 240mg Securon SR [®] Injection 5 mg in 2 ml	
Nifedipine	Tablets MR 10mg, 20mg	Info on nifedipine products: discontinuations and shortages
Nimodipine	Infusion 200mg/ml Tablets 30mg	Neurology use only

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2.6.3 Other antianginal drugs		
Nicorandil	Tablets 10mg, 20mg	
MHRA safety update: Ivabradine in the symptomatic treatment of angina: risk of cardiac side effects		
Ivabradine	Tablets 5mg, 7.5mg	GREEN = stable angina NICE BLUE = chronic heart failure NICE TA 267 Must be initiated by a heart failure specialist
Ranolazine	Tablets 375mg, 500mg, 750mg	Use in stable angina NICE
Perhexiline	Tablets 100mg	Consultant cardiologist recommendation only. Unlicensed in UK. Measure levels

2.6.4 Peripheral vasodilators and related drugs		
Naftidrofuryl	Capsules 100mg	NICE TA 223
Sildenafil	Tablets 25mg, 50mg	Off label use in Raynaud's. NHSE Commissioning Policy
Iloprost	Concentrate for solution for infusion 5 micrograms/ 0.5ml	

2.7 Sympathomimetics (back to top)		
Midodrine	Tablets 2.5mg, 5mg	Bramox® tablets Information sheet
2.7.1 Inotropic Sympathomimetics		
Dobutamine	Injection 250mg in 20ml	BSUH guidance
Dopamine	Injection 200mg in 5ml	BSUH guidance
Isoprenaline	Injection	Cardiac cath labs only. BSUH guidance Unlicensed in UK.
Calcium sensitizer		
Levosimendan	Injection	Cardiac and critical care consultant request only. Unlicensed in UK.
2.7.2 Vasoconstrictor Sympathomimetics		
Ephedrine	Injection 30mg in 1ml	
Metaraminol	Injection 10mg in 1ml	Unlicensed in UK
Noradrenaline	Injection 4mg in 4ml	
Phenylephrine	Injection 10mg in 1ml	
2.7.3 Cardiopulmonary resuscitation		
Epinephrine (rINN)	Injection 1mg in 10ml (prefilled syringe)	
Adrenaline (BAN)	Injection 1mg in 1ml	

2.8 Anticoagulants and protamine (back to top)		
Anticoagulation for Stroke Risk Reduction In Atrial Fibrillation or Atrial Flutter Guideline		
2.8.1 Parenteral anticoagulants		
Enoxaparin	60mg PFS , 80mg PFS, 100mg PFS Inhixa® (enoxaparin biosimilar) 20mg, 40mg PFS	For specialist recommendation in cardiology only
Tinzaparin	VTE prophylaxis 4,500 units PFS VTE treatment : 10,000units PFS and 18,000 units PFS Products available: 10,000iu/ml – 2,500iu (0.25ml); 3,500iu (0.35ml); 20,000iu (2ml) – 4,500iu (0.45ml) 20,000iu/ml –14,000iu (0.7ml); 40,000iu (2ml); 10,000iu (0.5ml); 18,000iu (0.9ml)	For prophylaxis and treatment of DVT and PE. For bridging oral anticoagulation BSUH guidance If heparin required in patients with atrial fibrillation/flutter (unlicensed)

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2.8.1 Parenteral anticoagulants continued		
Dalteparin	5,000 units	Vascular patients only. Only for in-patient use.
Epoprostenol	Powder for reconstitution 500 micrograms	
Fondaparinux	Injection Pre-filled syringe 7.5mg in 0.6ml Injection Pre-filled syringe 2.5mg in 0.5ml Injection 1.5mg,2.5mg,5mg,7.5mg,10mg	For use in Primary Care DVT Pathway Brighton patients ONLY NICE RED = management of NSTEMACS
Heparin	50 units in 5ml (heparin locking solution) 100 units in 1ml (2ml) 1,000 units in 1ml (1ml) 1,000 units in 1ml (5ml) 1,000 units in 1ml (20ml)- for infusions 5,000 units in 1ml (1ml) 5,000 units in 1ml (5ml) – renal only 5,000 units in 0.2ml – VTE prophylaxis in renal impairment. VTE treatment in renal impairment (haematologist advice only)	BSUH guidance 2ml paediatrics and oncology only
Bivalirudin	250mg injection	NICE TA 230
Argatroban	0.6-mL amp (750 units)	For management of heparin induced thrombocytopenia
2.8.2 Oral anticoagulants		
Anticoagulation for Stroke Risk Reduction In Atrial Fibrillation or Atrial Flutter Guideline		
Warfarin	Tablets 0.5mg, 1mg, 3mg, 5mg	BSUH guidance BSUH only supply 1mg and 3mg tablets
Phenindione Acenocourarol	Tablets 10mg, 25mg, 50mg Tablets 1mg	Alternative to warfarin in true warfarin allergy. Hospital consultant haematologist initiation
INR testing strips		
CoaguChek XS PT	Test strips	Only to be recommended by the BSUH anticoagulation service. Each box contains 24 strips. One test per week is normally suggested however there may be reason for more frequent testing dependent on the individual patient circumstances. E.g. when the patient is unwell or taking antibiotics. Patients should be advised not to invest in a meter before they have spoken to the anticoagulation clinic. CoaguChek meters will not be provided on the NHS.

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2.8.2 Oral anticoagulants continued				
NOACs	Form / Strength	Post THR or TKR <u>Full courses to be supplied on discharge</u>	Treatment and prevention of recurrent DVT/ PE	Prevention of stroke and systemic embolism in non-valvular atrial fibrillation Resources below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NICE CG180 • NICE patient decision aid • Treatment pathway - Prevention of stroke and systemic embolism in adults with non-valvular AF
Dabigatran	Capsules 75mg	RED NICE TA 157	Not licensed	Not licenced
	Capsules 110mg	RED NICE TA 157	GREEN NICE TA 327	GREEN NICE TA 249
	Capsules 150mg	RED NICE TA 157	GREEN NICE TA 327	GREEN NICE TA 249
Rivaroxaban	Tablets 10mg	RED NICE TA 170	RED	Not licensed
	Tablets 15mg	Not licensed	GREEN NICE TA 261 /TA 287	GREEN NICE TA 256
	Tablets 20mg	Not licensed	GREEN NICE TA 261 /TA 287	GREEN NICE TA 256
Apixaban	Tablets 2.5mg	RED NICE TA 245	GREEN NICE TA 341	GREEN NICE TA 275
	Tablets 5mg	Not licensed	GREEN NICE TA 341	GREEN NICE TA 275
Edoxaban	Tablets 30mg	Not licensed	GREEN NICE TA 354	GREEN NICE TA 355
	Tablets 60mg	Not licensed	GREEN NICE TA 354	GREEN NICE TA 355

2.8.3 Reversal agents		
Protamine	Injection 50mg in 5ml	Specific reversal agent for heparins only.
Idarucizumab	Injection 2.5g in 50ml Praxbind®	Specific reversal agent for dabigatran only. Contact haematology for advice.

 Available to buy Over The Counter. See policy statement for more info.	Non-Specialist Drugs	Specialist Initiation WITHOUT Shared Care Guidelines	Specialist Initiation WITH Shared Care Guidelines	Specialist ONLY Drugs
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2.9 Antiplatelet drugs (back to top)		
Aspirin	Dispersible tablets 75mg	Enteric coated and plain tablets are excluded from formulary.
Clopidogrel	Tablets 75mg	1st line for secondary prevention of ischaemic stroke and peripheral arterial disease NICE TA 210 Alternative to aspirin (monotherapy) in aspirin allergic patients. Dual therapy with aspirin in ACS and after coronary stent insertion (duration 1 month - 1 year depending on indication. If unclear check with cardiologist)
Dipyridamole	Modified release capsules 200mg	NICE TA 210
Dipyridamole with aspirin	Modified release capsules 200mg dipyridamole and 25mg aspirin	NICE TA 210
Prasugrel	Tablets 5mg, 10mg	NICE TA 317 Consultant cardiologist recommendation only (duration 1 month - 1 year depending on indication. If unclear check with cardiologist)
Ticagrelor	Tablets 90mg Tablets 60mg	90mg BLUE = for the treatment of acute coronary syndromes as per NICE TA 236 . Consultant cardiologist recommendation only (duration 1 month - 1 year depending on indication. If unclear check with cardiologist) 60mg RED = for preventing atherothrombotic events after myocardial infarction as per NICE TA 420
Abciximab	See local protocols	As per NICE TA 47 To be used as adjunct to PTCA
Eptifibatide	See local protocols	As per NICE TA 47 For high risk unstable angina or adjunct to PTCA BSUH guidance
Tirofiban	See local protocols	As per NICE TA 47 To be used as adjunct to PTCA
Prevention of atherothrombotic events in patients with coronary or peripheral arterial disease		
Rivaroxaban	2.5mg tablets	NICE TA 607 in high risk patients in combination with aspirin 75mg once a day. Specialist initiation only.

 Available to buy Over The Counter. See policy statement for more info.	Non-Specialist Drugs	Specialist Initiation WITHOUT Shared Care Guidelines	Specialist Initiation WITH Shared Care Guidelines	Specialist ONLY Drugs
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2.10 Myocardial infarction and fibrinolysis (back to top)		
2.10.1 Management of stable angina and acute coronary syndromes		
Rivaroxaban	2.5mg tablets	NICE TA 335 Consultant cardiologist recommendation only. Limited to 1 year of treatment unless otherwise directed.
2.10.2 Fibrinolytic drugs		
Alteplase	4mg – renal and ophthalmology 10mg –renal only 20mg, 50mg - stroke, PE, STEMI	NICE TA 52 , NICE TA 264 Thrombolysis in STEMI only if primary PCI not available and on recommendation of consultant cardiologist BSUH guidance
Reteplase	Powder for reconstitution, 10 units/ vial	NICE TA 52
Streptokinase	Powder for reconstitution, 250 000-unit vial, 1.5 million-unit vial	NICE TA 52
Tenecteplase	Powder for reconstitution, 40mg (8000-unit) vial, 50mg (10 000-unit) vial	NICE TA 52
Urokinase	10,000 unit vial	
2.11 Antifibrinolytic drugs and haemostatics (back to top)		
Tranexamic Acid	Tablets 500mg Injection 500mg	
2.12 Lipid-lowering drugs (back to top) Lipid Management Guidelines		
Ezetimibe	Tablets 10mg	Only if lipids are not controlled with the maximum tolerated dose of statin NICE TA 385
Fibrates		
Fenofibrate	Capsules 67mg, 200mg, 267mg Tablet 160mg	160mg second line 67mg if renal impairment
Statins		
Simvastatin	Tablets 10mg, 20mg, 40mg, 80mg	MHRA Safety Update
Atorvastatin	Tablets 10mg, 20mg, 40mg, 80mg	1 st choice
Rosuvastatin	Tablets 5mg, 10mg, 20mg, 40mg	Preferred option if patient has side effects with atorvastatin and need to switch statin.
Pravastatin	Tablets 20mg, 40mg	
Bile acid sequestrants		
Colesevelam	Tablets 625mg	Lipid clinic recommendation only.
Colestyramine (light)	Sachets 4g	Lipid clinic recommendation only. For other indications see colestyramine entry in the BNF
Omega-3 fatty acid compounds - <u>Not approved</u> for the secondary prevention of myocardial infarction		
Omega-3-acid Ethyl Esters	Capsules 1g of omega-3-acid ethyl esters	Lipid clinic recommendation or use in HIV only. Teromeg [®] is the preferred brand.
PCSK9 inhibitors		
Evolocumab	Prefilled pen or syringe 140mg	NICE TA 394 Lipid clinic only
Alirocumab	Single use prefilled pen 75 mg, 150 mg	NICE TA 393 Lipid clinic only

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