

Medicines Optimisation: key therapeutic topics Consultation on topics for the January 2018 update (June 2017)

Each year the NHS England Medicines Optimisation Intelligence Group identifies key therapeutic topics to be retained, retired or added to the current topics in the Medicines optimisation: key therapeutic topics document. These therapeutic topics are identified from the wide range of medicines optimisation areas of work based on the criteria defined in the box below. Potential new key therapeutic topics will be identified, prioritised and selected based on these criteria.

Identification, prioritisation and selection criteria for key therapeutic topics

Therapeutic topic with a potential opportunity for improving quality, innovation, productivity or prevention because of:

- a safety issue or risk:benefit issue
- large productivity savings
- large variations in clinical practice, with data demonstrating under usage or over usage
- a positive technology appraisal or other NICE guidance
- potential opportunity to prevent the development of illness or complications, including by reducing service utilisation (e.g. admissions)
- high clinician or patient interest.

The following table details proposals for topics to be retained, retired or added for the January 2018 update.

We would be pleased to receive any comments on these proposals by **5pm on 14 July 2017** by emailing them to adminteam@nice.org.uk

Key Therapeutic Topic	Recommendation (retain/retire/add)	Criteria (main criteria ticked)						Comments
		Safety	Productivity	Variation	NICE guidance	Prevention	Interest	
Multimorbidity and polypharmacy	RETAIN	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	There is a high level of interest in this topic.
Psychotropic medicines in people with learning disabilities whose behaviour challenges	RETAIN	✓				✓	✓	There is a high level of interest in this topic. Learning disability is an NHS England clinical priority.
Medicines optimisation in long-term pain	RETAIN	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	There is a high level of interest in this topic. Public Health England funded project, Opioids Aware.
Safer insulin prescribing	RETAIN	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	There is a high level of interest in this topic, particularly around safety and the introduction of new products. Diabetes is an NHS England clinical priority.
Biosimilar medicines	RETAIN	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	There is a high level of interest in this topic. Biosimilars are an NHS England clinical priority.
Acute kidney injury (AKI): use of medicines in people with or at increased risk of AKI	RETAIN	✓			✓	✓	✓	There is a high level of interest in this topic, particularly around safety. National 'Think Kidneys' programme.

Key Therapeutic Topic	Recommendation (retain/retire/add)	Criteria (main criteria ticked)						Comments
		Safety	Productivity	Variation	NICE guidance	Prevention	Interest	
Anticoagulants, including non-vitamin K antagonist oral anticoagulants (NOACs)	RETAIN	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	There is a high level of interest in this topic, particularly around safety.
Lipid modifying drugs	RETIRE				✓	✓		There is no longer a high level of interest in this topic and retiring this KTT could make way for new topics to be added.
Asthma: medicines optimisation priorities	RETAIN	✓	✓			✓	✓	There is a high level of interest in this topic, particularly around safety.
Hypnotics	RETAIN	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	There is still interest in this topic as a safety issue, and variation in prescribing. Mental health is an NHS England clinical priority.
Low-dose antipsychotics in people with dementia	RETAIN	✓			✓	✓	✓	There is still interest in this topic as a safety issue. Mental health is an NHS England clinical priority.
Antimicrobial stewardship: prescribing antibiotics	RETAIN	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	There is a high level of interest in this topic and variation in prescribing. Global priority.
Type 2 diabetes mellitus	RETAIN	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	There is a high level of interest in this topic and variation in prescribing. Diabetes is an NHS England clinical priority.

Key Therapeutic Topic	Recommendation (retain/retire/add)	Criteria (main criteria ticked)						Comments
		Safety	Productivity	Variation	NICE guidance	Prevention	Interest	
Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)	RETAIN	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	There is still interest in this topic as a safety issue and variation in prescribing.
Wound care products	RETAIN		✓				✓	There is still interest in this topic, mainly from a productivity perspective.
Standardisation of chemotherapy doses and products	ADD	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	There is a high level of interest with NHS England Medicines Optimisation CRG program. Aims to improve patient safety, productivity, service utilisation and variation in prescribing.