Red Drug Guidance

Red drugs would usually be prescribed by the hospital for the duration of the course. Primary care prescriber initiation or continuation of treatment not recommended except by Specialist GP and community paediatric team.

This guideline outlines the specific responsibilities of the Specialist, GP, and patient when a red drug is prescribed.

Contact Names and Details
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
Medicines Information phone number and e-mail: 0113 2064344 medicines.information@nhs.net
Medicines Information Patient Helpline phone number: 0113 2064376
Specialist via switchboard: LGI 0113 2432799 SJUH 0113 2433144

Leeds and York Partnership Foundation Trust
Medicines Information phone number and e-mail: 0113 8556319 Pharmacyleedspft.lypft@nhs.net
Patient information leaflets: www.choiceandmedication.org/leedsandyorkpft

Responsibilities of Specialist

- Diagnosis of condition and ensuring other treatment options have been fully explored
- To assess the suitability of the patient for treatment
- To discuss the benefits and side effects of treatment with the patient/carer and where applicable the need for long term monitoring
- To perform all baseline and routine monitoring tests for the full duration of the course
- To initiate treatment and prescribe treatment for the full duration of the course
- To assess and monitor the patient's response to treatment
- To advise the GP that treatment with a red drug has been started and dose prescribed
- To forward results of monitoring to GP
- To advise GP when dose changed or therapy stopped
- Responding to issues raised by GP
- To monitor the patient for adverse events and report to the GP and where appropriate Commission on Human Medicines/MHRA (Yellow card scheme)

**Responsibilities of GP**

- To record on the practice system that the patient is prescribed a red drug, (“How to guide” available at [http://n3appscsu.bradford.nhs.uk/DQResources/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx](http://n3appscsu.bradford.nhs.uk/DQResources/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx)
- To check for allergies and contact specialist as appropriate
- To ensure there are no interactions and contra-indications with any other medications initiated in primary care and contact specialist as appropriate
- To update practice system if dose changes
- To refer back to the specialist if the patient’s condition deteriorates
- To identify adverse events if the patient presents with any signs and liaise with the hospital specialist where necessary. To report adverse events to the specialist and where appropriate the Commission on Human Medicines/MHRA (Yellow card scheme).

**Responsibilities of Patient**

- To take responsibility for taking treatment as prescribed.
- To be aware that this drug will be supplied via the hospital and not from a GP for the full duration of the course.
- To attend for blood tests/disease monitoring on time (if appropriate).
- To understand potential for adverse events and report these to the Specialist and/or GP.
- To check with the community pharmacist that there are no interactions with this drug, when buying any over the counter medicines or herbal/homoeopathic products.
- To check with dentists or other specialists who may prescribe medicines that there are no interactions with this drug.
- To contact the GP, Specialist or Medicines Information patient helpline if further information or advice is needed about this drug.