

Reference: FOI.ICB-2324/194

Subject: Liothyronine Prescribing for Treatment of Primary Hypothyroidism

I can confirm that the ICB does hold some of the information requested; please see responses below:

QUESTION	RESPONSE
<p>1. The exact procedure (in detail) for getting a prescription for liothyronine on the NHS, including all parties involved (GPs, endocrinologists, board members, etc) and timeframes for each stage specific to the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB</p>	<p>Liothyronine is included in the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) Joint Formulary (Referral Home (Remedy BNSSG ICB)) for specific indications 6.9 Thyroid disorders (Remedy BNSSG ICB)</p> <p>Where an NHS consultant in endocrinology or their team considers that liothyronine is a treatment option and the patient meets the NHS England criteria for prescribing liothyronine (NHS England » Liothyronine – advice for prescribers) it is expected that the patient and the consultant in endocrinology or their team discuss all the appropriate treatment options available together through a shared decision making process to decide if liothyronine is the most suitable treatment of choice. Liothyronine is a RED traffic light drug that means prescribing is undertaken by hospital specialists only. The exact procedure for getting a prescription within the hospital Trust and timeframes for this will be held by the hospital Trust.</p>
<p>2. What documentation is required to get a prescription for liothyronine on the NHS under the NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB, and who to obtain it from</p>	<p>The BNSSG Joint Formulary and ICB does not require any documentation if a patient meets the NHS England criteria for prescribing liothyronine NHS England » Liothyronine – advice for prescribers</p>

	<p>If a patient does not meet this criteria it is possible that a NHS health professional (usually a consultant in endocrinology in this specific instance) may consider completing an exceptional funding request (EFR). Details of the BNSSG ICB EFR process can be found at the following link: Interventions Not Normally Funded (INNF) - NHS BNSSG ICB</p>
<p>3. How to make a formal prescription request for liothyronine under the NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB</p>	<p>BNSSG ICB does not hold a prescribing responsibility.</p> <p>The usual process would be through a consultation with an NHS endocrinologist as described in section 1 above.</p>
<p>4. Who to make a request to for a liothyronine prescription under the NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB</p>	<p>BNSSG ICB does not hold a prescribing responsibility.</p> <p>The usual process would be through a consultation with an NHS endocrinologist as described in section 1 above.</p>
<p>5. Who can prescribe liothyronine on the NHS under the NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB</p>	<p>An NHS consultant in endocrinology and their team</p>
<p>6. What grounds (if any) there are for refusal to be prescribed liothyronine under the NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB and what evidence those grounds are based on</p>	<p>As detailed above in section 1, prescribing of liothyronine should be in accordance with the NHSE criteria: Liothyronine – advice for prescribers NHS England » Liothyronine – advice for prescribers</p> <p>This states “For background information on why liothyronine is not routinely recommended for prescribing, please see the joint British Thyroid Association (BTA) and Society of Endocrinologists (SoC) consensus statement and NICE guideline: Thyroid disease: assessment and management.”</p>

<p>7. How to make an appeal against a refusal to be prescribed liothyronine on the NHS under the NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB</p>	<p>Details on the Exceptional Funding Request (EFR) process and subsequent appeal if the application is declined can be found here</p> <p>You have the right to make a complaint about any aspect of NHS care, treatment or service and this is written into the NHS Constitution How to complain to the NHS - NHS (www.nhs.uk)</p> <p>The Department of Health and Social Care accepts that if a doctor thinks that it is in the best interest of a patient to refer them for a second opinion they should do so.</p> <p>The General Medical Council (GMC) Home - GMC (gmc-uk.org), which regulates doctors, state that all doctors must ‘respect the patient’s right to seek a second opinion’.</p> <p>The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) is a free, confidential and independent service that you’ll find in most hospitals.</p> <p>If you would like to contact the ICB with a concern or complaint or if you would like some free and confidential advice in relation to a healthcare service you have received, please contact the BNSSG ICB Customer Services Team who will be happy to help you.</p> <p>Contact us - NHS BNSSG ICB</p>
<p>8. How to commence legal proceedings around being refused a prescription for liothyronine on the NHS under the NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB</p>	<p>The ICB does not hold this information.</p> <p>Please contact a solicitor who will be able to support you.</p>

<p>9. How a liothyronine prescription request is dealt with if the patient has a London-based GP and an NHS endocrinologist based at a hospital under the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB</p>	<p>The usual process would be followed through a consultation with an NHS consultant endocrinologist as described in section 1 above.</p>
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The information provided in this response is accurate as of 8th September 2023 and has been approved for release by Jo Medhurst, Chief Medical Officer for NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB.