

**Reference:** FOI.ICY-2526/313

**Subject:** National and Local Medicines Optimisation Priorities

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

QUESTION	RESPONSE
<p>By way of context, the requested records detailed below relate to the list of 16 national medicines optimisation opportunities published by NHS England each financial year since the summer of 2023. The current page is here:</p> <p><a href="https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/national-medicines-optimisation-opportunities-2023-24/">https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/national-medicines-optimisation-opportunities-2023-24/</a></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A list of the national priorities you have been pursuing in 2025-26</li> <li>2. A list of any local priorities you have been working on in 2025-26, as distinct from those in point 1 above.</li> <li>3. A list of any national priorities you will be pursuing in 2026-27</li> <li>4. A list of any local priorities you will be pursuing in 2026-27, as distinct from those in point 3 above.</li> </ol>	<p>1. In 2025-26 the ICB has been working on the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addressing problematic polypharmacy</li> <li>• Addressing low priority prescribing</li> <li>• Improving equitable adoption of the most clinically and cost-effective medicines</li> <li>• Obtaining secondary care medicines in line with NHS England commercial medicines framework agreements</li> <li>• Using best value biologic medicines in line with NHS England commissioning recommendations.</li> <li>• Addressing inappropriate antidepressant prescribing</li> <li>• Appropriate prescribing and supply of blood glucose and ketone meters, and testing strips and lancets</li> <li>• Identifying patients with atrial fibrillation and using best value direct-acting oral anticoagulants</li> <li>• Identifying patients with hypertension and starting antihypertensives where appropriate</li> <li>• Optimising inhaler use to improve respiratory outcomes and reduce carbon emissions</li> </ul>

- Improving valproate safety
- Optimising lipid management for cardiovascular disease prevention
- Reducing course length of antimicrobial prescribing
- Chronic non-cancer pain management without opioids

**2. Other local priorities in 25/26 include:**

- Antimicrobial stewardship in children
- In addition to the priority relating to inhalers, the ICB has prioritised embedding asthma guidelines with all relevant clinicians.
- Continued use and embedding of Eclipse Radar, a risk stratification tool to review patients highlighted as potentially at high risk from their medications.

**3. National priorities for 26/27 include:**

- Addressing problematic polypharmacy
- Addressing low priority prescribing
- Improving equitable adoption of the most clinically and cost-effective medicines
- Obtaining secondary care medicines in line with NHS England commercial medicines framework agreements
- Using best value biologic medicines in line with NHS England commissioning recommendations.
- Appropriate prescribing and supply of blood glucose and ketone meters, and testing strips and lancets

- Identifying patients with atrial fibrillation and using best value direct-acting oral anticoagulants
- Identifying patients with hypertension and starting antihypertensives where appropriate
- Optimising inhaler use to improve respiratory outcomes and reduce carbon emissions
- Improving valproate safety
- Optimising lipid management for cardiovascular disease prevention
- Reducing course length of antimicrobial prescribing
- Chronic non-cancer pain management without opioids

We await the NHS guidance on national medicines optimisation opportunities for 26/27 and will review priorities as needed.

#### **4. Other local priorities for 26/27**

- The medicines optimisation priorities will be aligned with the [BNSSG ICB joint forward plan](#) which is currently being updated.

*The information provided in this response is accurate as of 19 December 2025 and has been approved for release by Dr Joanne Medhurst, Chief Medical Officer for NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB.*