

Pharmacy First Changes

From 1st October 2025

Community Pharmacy Tees Valley
(Tees LPC)

Key changes

- There is an **additional Gateway point** for patients with risk of deterioration, red flags or serious illness to allow for clinical assessment (such as calculation of NEWS2 scores ahead of signposting patient to A&E or calling 999 in a life-threatening emergency).
- A clickable box with a link to the NICE Clinical Knowledge Summary for each condition has been added at the top of the page.
- Gateway points moved to earlier stages for Shingles, Impetigo, Sore throat, Acute Sinusitis, Infected insect bites – Not UTI

Uncomplicated UTI

- Inclusion criterion – Amended to **reflect more inclusive gender language** (from females changed to cisgender women, non-binary people assigned female at birth, transgender men (with no structural alteration to their urethra))
- Exclusion criterion - Amended to **reflect more inclusive gender language** (from “males” to “cisgender men, non-binary people assigned male at birth, transgender women (including those who have had structural alteration to their urethra)”)
- Typo changes – used to unused medication for disposal
- TARGET Treating Your Urinary Tract Infection (TYI-RTI) has been updated

Shingles

- Removed neck
- Valaciclovir 1g added as previously was 500mg
- Drug interactions updated for

Clarithromycin –

Eg: Lercanidipine, Hydroxychloroquine, Ivabradine, Eplerenone, Quetiapine

Erythromycin – CYP3A4 inhibitor

Eg: Lercanidipine, Ivabradine, Quetiapine

Erythromycin 500mg/5ml removed as no longer available

Impetigo

- Crystacide cream – off label use
- Fusidic acid PGD use only

Insect bites

- Definition of insects broadened – eight legs
- Excluded if bite happened abroad and relates to malaria or tick borne encephalitis
- Drug interactions as above
- Voriconazole added to the list of drugs (not to be concomitantly used whilst on Flucloxacillin)
- Recommendation of Ibuprofen to be used has been removed under follow up treatment section

Acute Sinusitis

Inclusion criterion

- The requirement for the presence of **TWO or more of the following signs/symptoms** (which suggests acute bacterial sinusitis is more likely) **has been removed**, to align to the clinical pathway:
- Marked deterioration after an initial milder phase
- Fever (>38°C)
- Unremitting purulent nasal discharge
- Severe localised unilateral pain, particularly pain over the teeth (toothache) and jaw

Reference to symptom duration has been amended to “Symptom duration of more than 10 days with no improvement” (this previously stated “little improvement”)

Exclusion criterion

“to reduce the risk of adrenal insufficiency” has been added to the exclusion criterion

Acute Sinusitis

- TARGET Treating Your Infection Respiratory Tract Infection (TYI-RTI) has been updated.
- **Inclusion Criteria** “10 days or more” has been amended to “more than 10 days”

Sore throat

- TARGET Treating Your Infection Respiratory Tract Infection (TYI-RTI) has been updated.
- Phenoxyethylpen – now says 2hrs after food is ok (off label but ok)
- Clarithromycin & Erythromycin – drug interactions updated
- Ibuprofen removed – from follow up treatment section

Phenoxymethylpenicillin PGD

Exclusion Criteria “Individuals currently taking/receiving the following medicines known to cause agranulocytosis (e.g. methotrexate, sulfasalazine, carbimazole, propylthiouracil, cotrimoxazole, valganciclovir, clozapine, carbamazepine, all chemotherapy)” has been **removed from this section**, meaning supplies may be considered for patients in this group.

Doxycycline PGD

- **Exclusion Criteria** “Known or suspected liver disease” has been added as an exclusion criterion

Erythromycin & Clarithromycin PGD – Drug interactions

Acute Otitis Media

- No specific changes
- Clarithromycin – not to be used when on lercanidipine and drug interactions