

**Services for Children &
Young People
and
Pharmacy Department**

**Joint policy on
the
use of medicines
references in the
treatment of
children**

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Document Revision Record

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JOINT POLICY ON THE USE OF MEDICINES REFERENCES IN THE TREATMENT OF CHILDREN

Aims

1. To improve patient safety with respect to the use of medicines in children
2. To provide official guidance on the *preferred* drug dosage reference in Newham Healthcare NHS Trust and Newham Primary Care NHS Trust
3. To lay down the number of copies of each reference that shall be available in each clinical area
4. To address a clinical risk issue raised in point 4.3.3 of “*Building a Safer NHS*”¹
5. To establish responsibility for updating the current editions

Policy

1. It is the policy of Newham Healthcare NHS Trust and Newham Primary Care NHS Trust that the official paediatric formulary shall be “Medicines For Children, (current edition)”²
 - 1.1. It is fully peer reviewed
 - 1.2. it draws on the expertise and experience of contributors to all other paediatric formularies past
 - 1.3. It draws on information from these formularies
 - 1.4. It is published by both the RCPCH and the NPPG
 - 1.5. It is updated on a six monthly basis (and reprinted in a fully updated format every three to four years)
 - 1.5.1. These updates are available from www.nppg.demon.org.uk
2. All other formularies are to be removed forthwith from all clinical areas and the pharmacy.
 - 2.1. Reference copies of other formularies will be held by the Paediatric Pharmacist and the Consultant Paediatricians
 - 2.2. Copies of the BNF will be distributed to Consultant Paediatricians only
 - 2.2.1. Ward copies of the BNF will be held in Sister’s office on Rainbow
3. It is the responsibility of the nurse in charge to draw attention to this policy to all visiting doctors out of hours
4. This policy will be explained to all new medical and nursing staff on commencement of service
5. The number of copies to be held by each unit are as follows:
 - 5.1. Rainbow ward – 6 full editions + 2 pocket editions
 - 5.2. SCBU – 2 full editions

- 5.3. Outpatient Area 2 – 3 full editions
- 5.4. A&E – 2 pocket editions
- 5.5. Community clinics – 1 pocket edition
- 5.6. Community paediatricians – 10 Pocket editions (1 each)
- 6. Responsibility for updating editions will rest with the Paediatric Services Senior Pharmacist
 - 6.1. He or she will download and print the updates as and when they become available
 - 6.2. The updates will be distributed in paper form to all wards and clinics for the ward staff to insert into their copies
 - 6.3. Updates for community doctors will be sent to the General Manager for distribution
- 7. These references must not be allowed to leave the clinical area

Glossary of abbreviations

BNF	British National Formulary
RCPCH	Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health
NPPG	Neonatal and Paediatric Pharmacists Group

¹ “Building a Safer NHS for Patients” DoH 2004; pp78

² RCPCH, NPPG; “Medicines for Children” 2nd Ed, 2003. ISBN 1900954680