

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference FoI/22/429

Acne Treatment

Information Requested:

Please can you confirm if there is one formulary for New Acne products in Wales?

Response Details:

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) confirm there is no single formulary (the official list of medicines that can be prescribed to patients in their area) for new acne products in NHS Wales. Each individual health board in Wales has its own formulary and these can be accessed via the following:

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board <https://abbformulary.wales.nhs.uk/>
Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board <https://bcuformulary.wales.nhs.uk/>
Cardiff and Vale University Health Board <https://cavformulary.wales.nhs.uk/>
Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board <https://cttformulary.wales.nhs.uk/>
Hywel Dda University Health Board <https://hddformulary.wales.nhs.uk/>
Powys Teaching Health Board <https://powformulary.wales.nhs.uk/>
Swansea Bay University Health Board <https://abmformulary.wales.nhs.uk/>

New medicines (or new formulations of medicines) can be added to a health board formulary through two main routes.

The preferred and the most common way for NHS Wales to decide whether the benefit to patients of a new licensed medicine justifies any additional cost for buying and administering it is through Health Technology Assessment (HTA). In Wales, a new licensed medicine may be assessed by the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) or by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). Medicines recommended by NICE or AWMSG are added to each health board formulary. Health boards in Wales are expected to make new medicines available to patients within 60 days of a HTA recommendation by AWMSG or NICE. Please note that only medicines with Prescription Only Medicine (POM) status are assessed using this route.

If a medicine does not meet the criteria for an HTA appraisal (more information is available at <https://awttc.nhs.wales/files/appraisal-process/awmsg-exclusion-criteria-pdf-430kb1/>), a health board may make the decision to include it on their formulary if felt appropriate.

More information about access to medicines in Wales can be found on the website of the All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre (AWTTC) at <https://awttc.nhs.wales/accessing-medicines/access-to-medicines-in-wales/> and also in the Access to medicines for patients in Wales document at <https://awttc.nhs.wales/files/awttc/access-to-medicines-for-patients-in-wales/>