



North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference PA\ North East & North
Cumbria ICB\ICB247

Your Reference ICB247

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03 March 2023

By Email

Dear

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request for Information – NHS North East & North Cumbria Integrated Care Board.

Thank you for your request received by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 21 February 2023 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

For information Clinical Commissioning Groups ceased to exist on 30 June 2022. Services that were previously delivered by the CCG are now being delivered by the successor organisation NHS North East and North Cumbria (ICB). This covers the areas of County Durham, Newcastle Gateshead, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland and Tees Valley.

Please find the information you requested on behalf of the ICB as follows;

Request

Agepha Pharmaceuticals has Aciclovir Agepha 3% eye ointment available in the UK for herpetic keratitis. At present there is no other Aciclovir available in the UK, since Zovirax GSK was discontinued in 2018.

We would therefore like to reach out and ask if the product is available in the formulary and if not what's the procedural inclusion steps into the formulary, which will allow healthcare professionals to prescribe Aciclovir.

Response

Aciclovir is on the three formularies that currently cover NENC ICB footprint. It is listed as aciclovir 3% eye ointment so no need to apply for formulary inclusion.

It is standard practice to list all medicines on the formularies as generic unless there is a clinical reason to prescribe by brand. That would not apply in this instance.

For further information the three formularies are currently being merged along with the formulary approval process so ensure a single formulary for ICB. Aciclovir eye ointment 3% will continue to be listed as such on the ICB formulary

In line with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log. Therefore, a version of our response which will protect your anonymity will be posted on the NHS ICB website <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/>.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone number or at the above address.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to the Senior Governance Manager using the contact details at the top of this letter quoting the appropriate reference number.

If you are not content with the outcome your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by The North of England Commissioning Support Unit.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

www.ico.gov.uk

Any information we provide following your request under the Freedom of Information Act will not confer an automatic right for you to re-use that information, for example to publish it. If you wish to re-use the information that we provide and you do not specify this in your initial application for information then you must make a further request for its re-use as per the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015 www.legislation.gov.uk . This will not affect your initial information request.

Yours sincerely

Paul Atkinson

Paul Atkinson
Information Governance Officer