

**Reference:** FOI.ICB-2223/107

**Subject:** BNSSG Formulary - Liquid Antidepressant Formulations

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

QUESTION	RESPONSE
<p>I am writing to make a Freedom of Information request regarding the availability or restrictions on liquid formulation antidepressants within your ICS.</p> <p>I have reviewed the available information on the BNSSG formulary (<a href="https://remedy.bnssgccg.nhs.uk/formulary-adult/bnssg-joint-formulary/about-the-bnssg-joint-formulary/">https://remedy.bnssgccg.nhs.uk/formulary-adult/bnssg-joint-formulary/about-the-bnssg-joint-formulary/</a>) and I can't seem to find any information about restrictions on the use of liquid formulations.</p> <p>Please could you let me know the following with reference to the primary care prescribing of antidepressants for depression and/or anxiety:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Are there any internal documents or guidelines that restrict the prescribing of liquid antidepressants?</li> <li>2. Do you have any guidance for prescribers regarding tapering of antidepressants? If so, could you provide a copy of the relevant documents.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No, tablets/capsules are the standard first line choice, however if a patient requires liquid for a clinical reason this would be appropriate</li> <li>2. The Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board (BNSSG ICB) does not currently have any guidance, only recommend NICE Guidance such as NG 22: Depression in adults: treatment and management</li> <li>3. Prescribing is periodically reviewed for any high-cost and/or special medications so they can be reviewed for appropriateness as in point 4 below. This may highlight liquid preparations. We also have ScriptSwitch, but the only antidepressant liquid switch recommendation active on there is between amitriptyline 10mg/5ml oral solution to the sugar free solution which is licensed.</li> <li>4. We send out monthly specials and high-cost drug reports to local GP surgeries for review and prescribing may be changed as a result to lower cost and/or licensed alternatives where appropriate.</li> </ol>

<p>3. Do you use any prescribing decision support software, or other tools such as PMR system searches, which identify prescribing of liquid antidepressants and recommend a switch to other formulations?</p> <p>4. Do you engage in any proactive correspondence with practices to encourage other formulations over liquid formulations?</p>	
---	--

***The information provided in this response is accurate as of 10 November 2022 and has been approved for release by Rosi Shepherd, Chief Nurse for NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB.***