



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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Circular 045/16

16<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Dear Pharmacist,

The Medicines Management Programme (MMP) will be announcing two further preferred drugs this week in relation to beta blockers and calcium channel blockers. This follows a comprehensive review of the literature and a consultation period which provided valuable submissions from a variety of stakeholders.

- Beta Blocker preferred drug is **Bisoprolol**
- Calcium Channel Blocker preferred drug is **Amlodipine**

A detailed document outlining the reasons for the selection of these preferred drugs along with "Prescribing Tips" will be published on the MMP website [www.hse.ie/yourmedicines](http://www.hse.ie/yourmedicines). Further information on the Preferred Drugs Initiative and the MMP can also be found [here](#).

Please find enclosed a copy of the communication that went to all GP prescribers for your information.

The HSE seeks your assistance in this initiative in explaining to patients the advantages of such an approach.

Yours faithfully,

Anne Marie Hoey  
Primary Care Reimbursement & Eligibility

16/09/2016

Re: Preferred Drugs Initiative

Dear Colleagues,

The HSE Medicines Management Programme's (MMP) 'preferred drug initiative' aims to promote safe, effective and cost-effective prescribing. We will be announcing two further preferred drugs later this week in relation to beta blockers and calcium channel blockers.

This follows a comprehensive review of the literature and a consultation period during which we received valuable submissions from a variety of stakeholders. Factors which impacted on our choice of agent included the licensed therapeutic indication(s), clinical outcome data, international clinical guidelines, cost, patient-related factors and prescribing trends in Ireland.

**Beta Blockers:** when initiating therapy with a beta blocker or if a change in therapy is being considered for patients with heart failure/angina or as add on therapy for hypertension:

- Preferred Beta Blocker is **BISOPROLOL**

**Calcium Channel Blockers (CCB):** when initiating therapy with a calcium channel blocker or if a change in therapy is being considered for the treatment of hypertension/stable angina:

- Preferred CCB is **AMLODIPINE**

A detailed document outlining the reasons for the selection of these preferred drugs along with "Prescribing Tips" will be published on the MMP website [www.hse.ie/yourmedicines](http://www.hse.ie/yourmedicines) shortly. We hope that this document will be a useful reference source for prescribers. Choosing to prescribe the preferred drug will enhance quality prescribing while also delivering real savings for the healthcare system and for patients who pay for their medicines.

We welcome your on-going feedback and support which will help to shape the development of the MMP with the aim of creating a prescribing resource for all prescribers. We have now named Preferred Drugs in 10 therapeutic areas.

Statins	SIMVASTATIN	Proton Pump Inhibitor	LANSOPRAZOLE
ACE inhibitor	RAMIPRIL	ARB	CANDESARTAN
SSRI	CITALOPRAM	SNRI	VENLAFAXINE
Oral anticoagulant	WARFARIN (NOAC: APIXABAN)	Antimuscarinics	TOLTERODINE SR
Beta Blocker	BISOPROLOL	Calcium Channel Blocker	AMLODIPINE

I wish to thank you for your continued support of the Preferred Drug Initiative and for more information on the Medicines Management Programme please visit: [www.hse.ie/yourmedicines](http://www.hse.ie/yourmedicines)

With best wishes,



Prof Michael Barry,  
National Clinical Lead, Medicines Management Programme