



guidelines recommending that certain medicines are used in appropriate circumstances and by appropriate practitioners. The APC targets best practice prescribing and quality outcomes for every one of Northern Lincolnshire's population.

### **New Treatments for Northern Lincolnshire**

Seebri is a recently launched inhaler that contains a long acting muscarinic antagonist (LAMA) called glycopyrronium bromide. This is available for patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). The dose is one inhalation daily.

Eklira Genuair is another recently launched inhaler for COPD. This contains aclidinium bromide, which is the same class of medicine as Seebri. This gives patients and practitioners more control over this condition and will greatly benefit many future patients. This has a twice daily dosage.

Imodium Instant Melts are now available for patients with stoma products. These contain a proven antimotility medicine called loperamide. These tablets dissolve in the mouth so that the loperamide can have a quicker onset of action for those patients with stomas. This is not to be routinely prescribed to patients without stoma devices. Loperamide in capsule form remains first line.

Nalcrom 100mg capsules are now on the Northern Lincolnshire Formulary for patients with a significant food allergy (where adequate investigations have been performed to determine sensitivity to one or more ingested allergens) in conjunction with restriction of main causative allergens. This will primarily be used in paediatrics, but may extend to other specialities.

### **COPD Treatments**

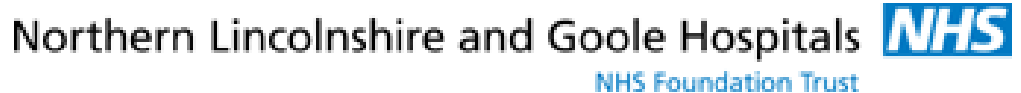
There are savings to be made for the NHS with newly initiated patients on both Seebri and Eklira Genuair. Seebri is potentially the most cost effective and data suggests that it is non-inferior to Spiriva. Also, Seebri, as Spiriva, is a once daily dosage regime, which is beneficial for patient compliance. Seebri is considered to be an appropriate choice for the majority of patients that can use the device correctly and tolerate glycopyrronium bromide. However, the Eklira Genuair inhaler (containing aclidinium bromide) does not require the insertion of a capsule, unlike Seebri and the other Formulary option which is Spiriva Handihaler. Depressing a switch is all that is required to prime this dry powder device. Upon inhalation both an audible sound is heard and visual confirmation is displayed. There is also a dosage counter on the Eklira Genuair device. Some COPD sufferers may have comorbidities that affect coordination, dexterity, understanding or vision. In this proportion of patients, the clear and easy to use device may be more suitable i.e. Eklira Genuair. This is irrespective of the twice daily dosage regime that is required. COPD is a very subjective disease and the choice of treatment should be personal and confidence in the device used is essential. Spiriva Handihaler contains tiotropium, which is the same class of medicine as the active compound in both Eklira Genuair and Seebri.

The data so far does not suggest that clinically any particular treatment option is significantly the most advantageous. Seebri offers an annual saving of £73.37 per patient. This equates to approximately £20,000 annual saving if all newly initiated COPD inhalers in Northern Lincolnshire were Seebri instead of Spiriva. This money could be used to buy new, essential and lifesaving equipment that would benefit patients with a respiratory condition.

The APC is accessible online at [www.northernlincolnshireapc.nhs.uk](http://www.northernlincolnshireapc.nhs.uk) or just search for 'North Lincolnshire APC'. The Formulary is given on the website as well as other important information about medicines and prescribing across primary and secondary care in the region.

---

**The Northern Lincolnshire Area Prescribing Committee represents:**



Visit the APC online:

**[www.northernlincolnshireapc.nhs.uk](http://www.northernlincolnshireapc.nhs.uk)**

