



Newsletter



Northern Lincolnshire
Area Prescribing Committee

 **December 2012**

Our Current Work

The Northern Lincolnshire Area Prescribing Committee (APC) is considering several new medicines for use in the Northern Lincolnshire area. These include a new and revolutionary treatment for individuals with a specific type of cancer, which is very difficult to treat. We aim to have decisions made on all new medicines within 8 weeks, so that patients can get the benefits as soon as these medicines are available in the UK. The Northern Lincolnshire APC uses one of the most skilled groups of consultants, lead GPs, Clinical Directors and expert pharmacists to clinically evaluate all new medicines that are presented. Every decision also involves input from local and national experts in the relevant field of care.

Keep up to date with the APC online by visiting www.northernlincolnshireapc.nhs.uk.

Enhancements for Hospital and Community Prescribing

Part of the core APC work includes the creation and evaluation of the prescribing Formulary, which forms the guideline for all prescribing clinicians to follow. This helps to ensure that patients all over Northern Lincolnshire equally receive the very best possible standards of care. Quality is the driving factor behind everything we do and we continually strive to ensure that the most suitable medicines for every condition are available and that related information is easily accessible by every healthcare professional involved. So far, the APC has produced the first 4 chapters of the new Formulary. These give structured guidance to all prescribers in both hospital and community settings to ensure that patient care is seamlessly continued to the highest standard, no matter which doctor, clinic or hospital administers the care. The aim is that within 12 months from formation, the APC will have completed production of all chapters of the prescribing Formulary. This is part of the process that leads to every condition being medically treated and controlled to the highest attainable standards.

Shared Care Guidelines continue to be developed. Key areas have been highlighted and many groups are collaborating to ensure that individuals with multi-profession care needs are being well looked after. We listen to and regularly discuss patients' opinions on care pathways in our area. This shapes future care in a way that will be most beneficial to every patient involved. Whether you are a patient or healthcare professional, if you have an idea or opinion, why not contact the APC secretary and let your voice be heard. As this is the last Newsletter of 2012, we hope you all have an enjoyable festive season and send our best wishes for 2013.