

**Hertfordshire and West Essex (HWE) Area Prescribing Committee (APC)**  
**Traffic Light Classification / RAG rating**

**DOUBLE RED – Not recommended for prescribing by either Community/Secondary/Tertiary or Primary care;** NOT a priority for funding. Such a treatment should only be used in exceptional cases (refer to Individual Funding Request policy) and prescribing may be subject to challenge. Any treatment appraisals terminated by NICE will automatically be designated a “double red” category.

**RED – Not recommended for prescribing in Primary Care (for prescribing by Community/Secondary/Tertiary care as agreed)** because of clinical or other issues and/or treatments are specialist national tariff excluded, or funding responsibility lies with NHS England; Prescribing may be subject to challenge.

**AMBER INITIATION – Recommended for prescribing** but only considered suitable for initial prescribing by specialists in Community, Secondary and Tertiary care (as agreed) with prescribing (and monitoring, where applicable) continued by GPs. A shared care agreement is not required here but the patient’s GPs must be supplied with sufficient information on the prescribed medication. Examples fitting this category are where dose stabilization is needed, or where treatments are complex but the monitoring is not great enough to require amber protocol status.

**AMBER PROTOCOL – Recommended for prescribing** but only considered suitable for initial prescribing by specialists in Community, Secondary and Tertiary care (as agreed) with prescribing and monitoring continued by GPs and Primary Care Clinicians in conjunction with a Shared Care Agreement. The Shared Care Agreement must follow HWE APC Shared Care Principles in order for it to be accepted.

These amber categories must not be confused with the Amber category in the National Enhanced Service.

**GREEN – Recommended for prescribing and treatment considered to be suitable for initiation in Primary, Community, Secondary or Tertiary care and continuation in Primary Care.**

Prescribers must recognise and work within the limits of their competence and must maintain and develop knowledge and skills relevant to their role and practice, including prescribing and managing medicines. Green status does not mean that a treatment must be initiated by a prescriber if they consider it is not within the limits of their competence and they do not have the current clinical knowledge and skills. This may be particularly relevant for recently licensed/approved medicines/new indication(s) for existing medicine. Advice can be sought from an appropriate experienced colleague, or advice and guidance can be sought from an appropriate specialist to support a prescribing decision.