

Freedom of Information Request	FOI 21-134	26 th April 2021
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1. **What is the process for getting a medication/product on the formulary for your region?**

Information about the Health Board's formulary process can be found via the following link:

[Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Medicines & Therapeutics Committee - Formulary Applications & Non Formulary Requests \(wales.nhs.uk\)](https://www.wales.nhs.uk/foi/21-134)

2. **What factors go into your decisions regarding medication and medical products to include in your local formulary? (Such as cost, value proposition, etc.)**

According to the NICE MPG1 Developing and Updating local formularies Guidance, all formularies should consider the following criteria when making formulary decisions:

- patient safety
- clinical effectiveness
- cost effectiveness or resource impact
- strength of evidence
- place in therapy relative to available treatments
- national guidance and priorities
- local health priorities
- equity of access
- stakeholder views

[Overview](#) | [Developing and updating local formularies](#) | [Guidance](#) | [NICE](#)

3. **Can you please provide information regarding medication optimization in your area? Who performs medication optimization? Who assists patients in the process of switching medications/products if recommended or if the formulary changes? Is this performed by GPs, pharmacists etc.**

Medicines optimisation is defined as 'a person-centred approach to safe and effective medicines use, to ensure people obtain the best possible outcomes from their medicines'. This involves making sure patients are taking the most clinically effective, cost effective medication that is suitable for their individual needs. All Healthcare Professionals involved in patient care can be involved in medicines optimisation to a degree, however traditionally it falls within the pharmacist's remit to ensure medications are optimised [Medicines optimisation \(nice.org.uk\)](https://www.nice.org.uk/foi/21-134).

4. **How has COVID-19 affected your area? Has it affected your budgets? Where do you see opportunities for medications/products and medication optimization in this time of COVID-19?**

During 2020/21 the cost of medication across the Health Board rose in the region of 2.5%. The impact due to COVID-19 has been estimated to be close to £4.5m.