

20 May 2019

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DECISION NOTICE

Dear Requester

FOI Reference Number: 000433

I refer to your email of 24 April 2019 requesting information regarding discussions about the drug Liothyronine.

I can confirm on behalf of Great Yarmouth and Waveney, North Norfolk, South Norfolk, Norwich and West Norfolk CCGs and in accordance with S.1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) that we do hold the information that you have requested. A response to each element of your request is detailed below:

I am requesting all information regarding discussions about the drug Liothyronine from January 2018, up to and including April 2019, by the Norwich/ Norfolk TAG Therapeutic Advisory Group, and DTCCG Drugs and Therapeutic Commissioning Group. These will include minutes of meetings and any statements, policies, pathways or protocols produced.

The following response is informed by information held by AGEM CSU on behalf of the CCGs in relation to the Medicines Management service commissioned under a statement of works.

Response

Please see the link below which details the most recent updates to the commissioned position regarding liothyronine, as reported in the February 2019 edition of The Prescriber newsletter (pages 4 to 5 – three mentions):

<https://www.knowledgeanglia.nhs.uk/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=rdPU5BVn8J0%3d&portalid=1>

This was an update to previous decisions reported in the October 2018 edition of The Prescriber newsletter.

All the current commissioned positions regarding various uses of liothyronine can be accessed on the Knowledge Anglia website:

[https://www.knowledgeanglia.nhs.uk/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=kmax5_4K73M%3d&portalid=](https://www.knowledgeanglia.nhs.uk/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=kmax5_4K73M%3d&portalid=1)

[1](#) **

These were agreed for commissioning by the CCGs in February 2019 after the TAG and the DTC considered the RMOG's November 2018 (v2.0) guidance document on liothyronine in January 2019

These are as follows:

Index of TAG recommendations

<i>Generic name</i>	<i>Indication</i>	<i>BNF class</i>		<i>Traffic light</i>	
Liothyronine / L-tri-iodothyronine sodium (T3)	RESTRICTED use for long term treatment in rare cases of levothyroxine-induced liver injury, and are assessed by an NHS consultant as requiring treatment - as per RMOG guidance	6.2.2	Anti-thyroid drugs	Green	GP prescribable at request of Consultant/Specialist
Liothyronine / L-tri-iodothyronine sodium (T3)	RESTRICTED use for patients on levothyroxine who continue to suffer with symptoms despite adequate biochemical correction, and are assessed by an NHS consultant as requiring treatment - as per RMOG guidance	6.2.2	Thyroid hormones	Green	GP prescribable at request of Consultant/Specialist
Liothyronine / L-tri-iodothyronine sodium (T3)	Niche, short-term use for up to three months in patients awaiting surgery pre-cancer therapy	6.2.2	Thyroid replacement drugs	Red	Hospital / Specialist only
Liothyronine / L-tri-iodothyronine sodium (T3)	ROUTINE use for long term for treatment of Hypothyroidism	6.2.2	Thyroid replacement drugs	Double Red	Not recommended for routine use / Not commissioned
Liothyronine/L-tri-iodothyronine sodium (T3)	Resistant depression - as per RMOG guidance	6.2.2	Thyroid hormones	Double Red	Not recommended for routine use / Not commissioned
Liothyronine/L-tri-iodothyronine sodium (T3)	Patients with thyroid cancer following thyroid surgery, pre- and post radio iodine ablation	6.2.2	Thyroid replacement drugs	Red	Hospital / Specialist only

In addition to this information, the TAG's Full Guidance document (which expands on the information in the table found at the link below) can be accessed via:

<https://www.knowledgeanglia.nhs.uk/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=IZZbxtCUhJA%3d&portalid=1>

The attached documents are relevant excerpts from the TAG and the D&TCs minutes and summaries from May 2018 and January 2019 where liothyronine was last discussed.

(NB Liothyronine was not specifically mentioned in the D&TC's January 2019 minutes).

I hope that this answers your queries with the information we currently hold, but if I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to

Arden & GEM CSU
FOI Team, Room 18
Scarsdale
Newbold Road
Chesterfield
S41 7PF

Email agcus.foi.norfolkwaveneycgs@nhs.net

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided the CCG.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioners Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF, telephone 0303 123 1113, email casework@ico.org.uk

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<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>

Yours faithfully

Lindsay Parker

Senior FOI Officer, Arden & GEM CSU

**On behalf of
Great Yarmouth and Waveney,
North Norfolk, South Norfolk
Norwich and West Norfolk CCGs**