

Reference:	FOI.5612.21
Subject:	Formulary information
Date of Request:	17 March 2021

Requested:

1. What is the process for getting a medication/product on the formulary for your region?
2. What factors go into your decisions regarding medication and medical products to include in your local formulary? (Such as cost, value proposition, etc.)
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.
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?

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) follows the Managed Entry of New Drugs procedure for the processing of medications and products on to the formulary. A copy has been provided, at Attachment 1.
2. The UHB confirms that the factors considered in decision making regarding the medication and medical products to be included within the local formulary comprise safety, tolerability, efficacy, price, the simplicity of the product in use and the extent of the input required for a successful switch.
3. The UHB confirms that medicines optimization is carried out by GPs, practice nurses, pharmacists and the UHB's Medicines Optimization Team, who assist patients when switching to recommended formulary choices.
4. The UHB confirms that the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are similar across the NHS in Wales. The UHB is gradually restarting routine work, which had been interrupted, with staff and resources being diverted to managing the pandemic. The UHB's Medicines Optimization Programme is continuing with the priorities that were set in 2019, with a view to check for any developments over the last year. No advice has been provided as to whether budgets have been affected by COVID-19.