

February 2019  
Issue 3

# PRESCRIBING WISE

## OptimiseRX

### NON FORMULARY DRUGS (RED RED)

Non-Formulary (Red Red) Medicine spend across Lincolnshire has reduced by 18% overall. Below is the updated version of our spend pattern, split by CCG. Individual practice lists of Non-Formulary items prescribed and Practice comparisons spend per 1,000 patients for Q2 are available on the [PACEF website](#).

Further information on what makes up the spend on Red Red drugs is being analysed and will be release shortly.

If you would like advice or help regarding Red Red drugs please contact the Optum MMO service on 01476 406351.



RED RED SPEND  
LINCS

Please also find attached a list of drugs where an appropriate suggestion can be made.

On behalf of the Lincolnshire CCGs, the Optum Medicines Management and Optimisation (MMO) team maintains the local OptimiseRX profiles. This trusted tool supports prescribers in their day to day decision making and serves as a reminder of national and local recommendations regarding the most suitable and cost effective medicines to select or recommend.

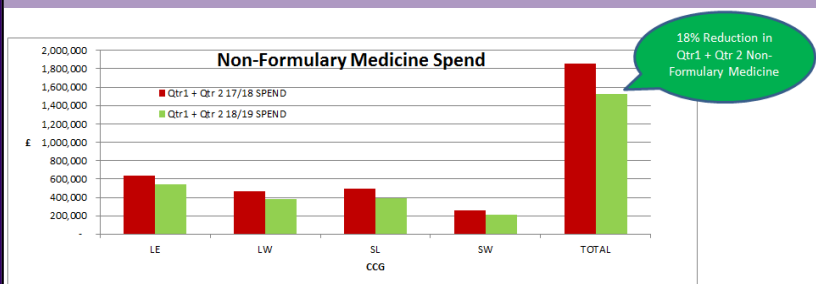
If your practice would like further guidance on any OptimiseRX message or would like to give feedback about a message, please contact the OPTUM MMO team through either the Embedded Pharmacist for your practice or via the MMO email:

[chs.mmo.sharedservices@nhs.net](mailto:chs.mmo.sharedservices@nhs.net)

For any technical issues with the software please contact OptimiseRX directly: FDBUK, Customer Services:

[customerservices@fdbhealth.com](mailto:customerservices@fdbhealth.com)

**Please provide as much information as possible at the point of contact.**



## OTC

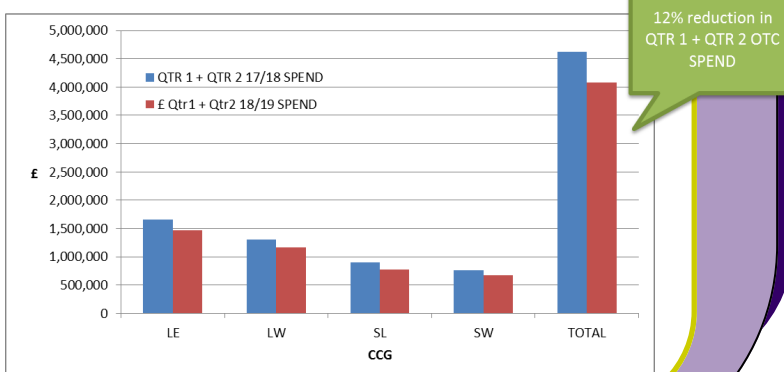
The spend on over the counter (OTC) medicines across the four Lincolnshire CCGs has decreased by 12%. Below is the updated information of our spend pattern, split by CCG.

This reflects the work carried out so far in the county across practices, community pharmacies and through countywide campaigns.

QTR 1 + QTR 2	OTC SPEND								
	£ QTR 1 17/18	£ QTR 2 17/18	QTR 1 + QTR 2 17/18 SPEND	£ QTR 1 18/19	£ QTR 2 18/19	QTR 1 + QTR 2 18/19 SPEND	£ Reduction	% Reduction	Re-duction
LE	847,738	811,430	1,659,168	731,801	732,430	1,464,231	194,936	12%	
LW	672,934	633,917	1,306,851	581,222	582,064	1,163,287	143,564	11%	
SL	458,349	438,504	896,853	391,576	387,255	778,831	118,022	13%	
SW	395,807	366,564	762,371	331,261	338,596	669,857	92,513	12%	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,374,828</b>	<b>2,250,414</b>	<b>4,625,242</b>	<b>2,035,861</b>	<b>2,040,345</b>	<b>4,076,206</b>	<b>549,036</b>	<b>12%</b>	

Individual practice lists of OTC items prescribed and Practice comparisons spend per 1,000 patients for Q2 are available on the PACEF website. Also available is guidance on Laxative, Baby Milks, Infant prescribing. We will be issuing further guidance on other therapeutic areas and analysis of the spend shortly.

If you would like advice or help regarding OTC drugs please contact the Optum MMO service on 01476 406351.



## Optum MMO: Sodium Valproate - Patient Advice

**Valproate medicines must not be used in women of childbearing potential unless the Pregnancy Prevention Programme is in place.**

### Actions for GPs

- Identify and recall all women and girls on valproate who may be of childbearing potential
- Provide the Patient Guide to the patient (or her parents or responsible person as necessary)
- Check they have been reviewed by a specialist in the last year (ie, they have an in-date Risk Acknowledgement Form) and are on highly effective contraception

### Responsibilities of Healthcare Professionals

Valproate medicines must not be used in women of childbearing potential unless the Pregnancy Prevention Programme is in place. As stated in the risk minimisation materials, the requirement for a Pregnancy Prevention Programme is applicable to all premenopausal female patients unless the prescriber considers that there are compelling reasons to indicate that there is no risk of pregnancy. As for any medicine, use that does not comply with the conditions of the licence would be off-label and carry the [accompanying responsibilities](#).

### How to order more packs

Packs of information materials to support informing women on valproate of the risks in pregnancy and the need to be enrolled in the Pregnancy Prevention Programme have been sent to prescribers, dispensers, and healthcare professionals. A reminder of the key valproate materials and how to access them online is available in the [May 2018, Drug Safety Update](#). Despite this we are hearing that women on valproate are still not receiving the information they are entitled to, including the patient information leaflet, and some women on valproate are unaware of the serious risks in pregnancy.

If you require more copies or if you have not received a pack, please contact the Sanofi medical information department without delay on 0845 372 7101 or email [UK-Medicalinformation@sanofi.com](mailto:UK-Medicalinformation@sanofi.com).

### Actions for Dispensers

- Valproate medicines must always be dispensed with the accompanying patient information leaflet
- Dispense whole packs whenever possible, and ensure there is a warning label either on the carton or added via a sticker
- Discuss risks in pregnancy with female patients each time you dispense valproate medicines and ensure they have the Patient Guide and have seen their GP or specialist to discuss their treatment and the need for contraception
- Ensure new packs of valproate information materials are placed in a designated place accessible to all dispensing staff and dispose of any old materials related to valproate medicines