



➤ **NHS England Updated Commissioning recommendations for Direct-acting Oral Anticoagulant(s) (DOACs)**

NHS England has updated its DOAC guidance so that it now recommends generic apixaban (twice a day) as the best value DOAC in non-valvular AF. Generic apixaban had a further drop in price in the Drug Tariff in January. The drug tariff prices of the DOACs are:

Drug	Strength	Cost	Pack Size
Apixaban	2.5mg	£4.92	60 tablets
Apixaban	5mg	£4.97	56 tablets
Dabigatran	75mg, 110mg and 150mg	£51.00	60 capsules
Edoxaban	30mg and 60mg	£49.00	28 tablets
Rivaroxaban	10mg	£54.00	30 tablets
Rivaroxaban	15mg and 20mg	£50.40	28 tablets

Since the expenditure on DOACs within Northamptonshire is in excess of £10M/year prescribing generic apixaban will create substantial cost savings.

➤ **[Otitis media with effusion in under 12s: summary of updated NICE guidance](#)**

The BMJ have done a summary of 2023 NICE guideline focusing on updated recommendations relevant to primary care including not using antibiotics, oral or nasal steroids, antihistamines, leukotriene receptor antagonists, mucolytics, PPIs or anti-reflux medications, or decongestants for treatment. For Acute Otitis Media please refer to [NICE Guidance \(NG91\)](#)

➤ **[Medicine Information Leaflets Specific For Children](#)**

Medicines for Children provide leaflets for parents and carers about how to use medicines in children. The information may differ from manufacturers information because their information usually relates to adults.

➤ **[Why learning how to swallow pills is good for patients, parents, and the planet](#)**

This review notes that pills are likely to have a reduced environmental impact compared with an equivalent dose of liquid medication, with less packaging and less wasted medicine. Also, pill swallowing is an important life skill that can improve dosing accuracy and adherence. There is a guide to swallowing tablets for children from Medicines for Children [Helping your child to swallow tablets – Medicines For Children](#)

➤ **Shingrix shingles vaccine for immunocompromised patients**

Shingrix is now the recommended shingles vaccine instead of Zostavax. As Shingrix is a non-live vaccine it can be given to immunocompromised patients. All immunosuppressed patients aged 50 and over are eligible for 2 doses. Immunocompetent patients will be offered Shingrix from 60 years of age in a phased implementation starting with those turning 65 and 70 years. The upper age limit remains 79. A Shingles Vaccination Programme GP toolkit has been circulated by NHSE East Midlands

➤ **[Fluoroquinolone antibiotics: must now only be prescribed when other commonly recommended antibiotics are inappropriate - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)**

The UK indications for systemic fluoroquinolones (by mouth, injection, inhalation) have been updated following a review into the effectiveness of previous measures to reduce the risk of disabling and potentially long-term or irreversible adverse reactions.