

AWMSG RECOMMENDATION WORDING

This document provides clarification of the wording of AWMSG recommendations.

Positive recommendations:

1. “**RECOMMENDED FOR USE** within NHS Wales” applies to a medicine first in its class for that specific licensed indication. This places an obligation on Health Boards to make the medicine available and fund accordingly. Where a formulary exists, the medicine should be included.
2. “**RECOMMENDED AS AN OPTION FOR USE** within NHS Wales” applies to a medicine when it is not the only treatment available for a specific licensed indication. This places an obligation on Health Boards to make the medicine available for a patient who meets the clinical criteria set out in the guidance, subject to the clinical judgement of the treating clinician. Prescribing priority should be in accordance with local formulary decision.

For the avoidance of doubt or confusion, when AWMSG recommends a medicine as ‘**an option**’, this is an option for the clinician and patient to consider alongside other potential treatments, not an option for commissioners or providers to not make the treatment available.

Restricted positive recommendations:

3. “**RECOMMENDED FOR RESTRICTED USE** within NHS Wales” applies when use of the medicine is approved for a specific section of the licensed indication or a specific patient population (restriction/s will be detailed within the final recommendation).
4. “**RECOMMENDED AS AN OPTION FOR RESTRICTED USE** within NHS Wales” is a combination of statements 2 and 3.

If a medicine is supported by AWMSG (i.e. recommended for use, or recommended as an option for use) and is ratified by Welsh Government, there is a requirement, as with National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidance, to provide funding to enable implementation within two months of the recommendation in line with [Welsh Government directions](#).

Negative recommendations:

5. The medicine is “**NOT RECOMMENDED FOR USE** within NHS Wales”

*If a medicine is not supported by AWMSG (i.e. not recommended for use within NHS Wales) it should **NOT** be routinely available. However, a case for exceptionality could be made. Healthcare professionals should make clinical decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer and informed by the Summary of Product Characteristics of any medicine they are considering.*

Statement of advice:

There may be occasions when the holder of the marketing authorisation is not in a position to progress a submission to AWMSG for appraisal. In the absence of AWMSG advice, or final NICE technology appraisal guidance, a Statement of Advice will be issued (posted on the AWMSG website) to inform NHS Wales of medicines which “**CANNOT BE ENDORSED FOR USE** within NHS Wales”.

*The notice is provided for information to NHS Wales and confirms that Welsh Government has ratified that the medicine “**CANNOT BE ENDORSED**” and therefore should **NOT** be prescribed routinely within NHS Wales. Healthcare professionals should make clinical decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer and informed by the Summary of Product Characteristics of any medicine they are considering.*

General note:

AWMSG is mindful that other licensed medicines are available which have not been appraised by AWMSG or NICE (due to the previous appraisal criteria of AWMSG, or date of receipt of marketing authorisation of the medicine). The use of these medicines should not be adversely affected by the mandatory nature of AWMSG recommendations applied to newer medicines.