

**Surrey Heartlands Integrated Care System
Area Prescribing Committee (APC)**

Application for colour classification for established medicines without PAD entry

Drugs for the prevention of migraine in adults as described in CKS

CKS Title: Drugs for the-prevention-of-migraine CKS [Link](#), Last revised in May 2021

Recommendation Options: ① GREEN, ② AMBER, ③ BLUE, ④ RED, ⑤ Non-Formulary, ⑥ Requires full evidence review

Does diagnosis require Specialist? CKS indicates diagnosis can be made in primary care, exclusions clearly described.

Medicine ⁽¹⁾	Licensed indication?	Place in therapy ⁽¹⁾	Does it require dose titration? Yes or No	Does it require monitoring? (SPC)	Traffic light recommendation
Propranolol	Yes	For use in migraine prophylaxis in line with CKS	YES- 80–240 mg daily in divided doses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuing therapy should be reviewed every 6 months - Monitor lung function (in patients with a history of obstructive airway disease). - Patients who have depression who also have migraine could be at an increased risk of using propranolol for self-harm 	Green
Topiramate tablets	Yes ^[1]	For use in migraine prophylaxis in line with CKS	YES - Topiramate should be initiated at a low dose and titrated slowly Commence at 25mg nightly, and increase if required; Note it can take 6-8 weeks before maximum effect is gained	Continuing therapy should be reviewed every 6 months re is no alert issued by the MHRA The license for Topiramate indicates that: 'Migraine prophylaxis with [<i>topiramate is contraindicated</i>] in pregnancy and in women of childbearing potential if not using a highly effective method of contraception'	Green

				<p>CKS states that 'Topiramate is contraindicated in pregnancy. Highly effective contraception is required prior to initiation — topiramate can impair the effectiveness of some hormonal contraceptives.</p> <p>Topiramate is contraindicated in pregnancy. Highly effective contraception is required prior to initiation — topiramate can impair the effectiveness of some hormonal contraceptives.</p>	
Topiramate capsules	Yes	Less cost-effective than tablet formulation	YES	Continuing therapy should be reviewed every 6 months	For patients who cannot swallow tablets
Topiramate liquid	Yes	Less cost-effective than tablet formulation	YES	Continuing therapy should be reviewed every 6 months	For patients who cannot swallow tablets
Amitriptyline	Yes	For use in migraine prophylaxis in line with CKS	YES Initially 10–25 mg daily, dose to be taken in the evening, then increased, if tolerated, in steps of 10–25 mg every 3–7 days in 1–2 divided doses; usual dose 25–75 mg daily, dose to be taken in the evening	<p>Continuing therapy should be reviewed every 6 months</p> <p>Elderly patients are particularly susceptible to many of the side-effects of tricyclic antidepressants; low initial doses should be used, with close monitoring, particularly for psychiatric and cardiac side-effects</p>	Green
Gabapentin	No	NICE guidance does not recommend ^[2]		Used off-label for migraine prevention	Non-Formulary
Pregabalin	No	Same mode of action as gabapentin which NICE does not recommend		Used off-label for migraine prevention	Non-Formulary

[1] Topiramate does not have a UK marketing authorisation for use in children and young people for this indication

[2] Do not offer gabapentin for the prophylactic treatment of migraine [new 2015] (CKS/NICE)

References:

1. [Drugs for the prevention of migraine | Prescribing information | Migraine | CKS | NICE](#) -accessed 8.3.2021
2. [Hot topics | PrescQIPP C.I.C](#) - accessed 8.3.2021
3. [Overview | Headaches in over 12s: diagnosis and management | Guidance | NICE](#) -accessed 8.3.2021
4. [TOPIRAMATE | Drug | BNF content published by NICE](#) - accessed 8.3.2021
5. [PROPRANOLOL HYDROCHLORIDE | Drug | BNF content published by NICE](#) - accessed 29.4.2021
6. [AMITRIPTYLINE HYDROCHLORIDE | Drug | BNF content published by NICE](#) - accessed 29.4.2021
7. [eSPC, Lyrica®, pregabalin](#), accessed 08.05.21
8. [Cochrane review, Gabapentin or pregabalin for preventing migraine attacks in adults](#), Published 24 June 2013

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Declaration of Interest:None

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Declaration of Interest:None

Date: