

10/09/2025

NN-ICB/25-1284

Dear Requestor

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your request for information, received on 12 August 2025, regarding Nefopam. We have processed your request in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Under the FOIA, public authorities like ours are required to respond to requests for information within 20 working days. In response to your request, I can confirm that we do hold the information requested.

Please find below our response to your request:

To enquire whether there is an APC-approved prescribing guideline or shared care protocol in place for ****Nefopam**** for use within the Nottinghamshire area.

As I understand that some medicines require formal initiation by a specialist and must be supported by an APC-endorsed guideline before they can be safely prescribed in primary care. I would be grateful if you could confirm:

1. Whether the drug ****Nefopam**** has been approved for use outside secondary care.

We have two Area Prescribing Committees (APC) that cover Nottinghamshire, these are the Nottingham APC and also the Doncaster and Bassetlaw APC. Where applicable we have split the responses from each APC. Nefopam can be prescribed by a GP but only on advice of a pain team or renal consultant and subject to restrictions as listed on the formulary. Within Bassetlaw it is classified as Amber G. Amber G = "Products must be initiated and where relevant titrated to stable dosage by a specialist before primary care practitioners take over prescribing responsibility. There may be a requirement for monitoring to be undertaken by the primary care practitioner as defined in relevant Amber G Guidance. Please refer to the Comments for each individual product."

2. If so, whether an ****APC-approved guideline or shared care protocol**** exists to support its prescribing. (I would be grateful if this could be sent to me).

An APC-approved guideline or shared care protocol does not exist to support the prescribing of Nefopam for either APC.

3. Its current ****traffic light classification**** within the Nottinghamshire APC formulary.

Currently Amber 2 - 'Medicines suitable to be prescribed in primary care / general practice after specialist recommendation or initiation'. For Bassetlaw – as per question 1 response. Also considered to be non formulary, see mpd.doncasterccg.nhs.uk/therapeutic-sections/4-central-nervous-system/47-analgesics/471-non-opioid-analgesics-and-compound-analgesic-preparations/?showNonFormularyDrugs=true

4. Why and when the medicine should be used?

The restricted place in therapy is stated on the formulary – i.e. only to be considered if paracetamol, NSAIDs and opioids are unsuitable. In Bassetlaw it's indicated for "Relief of acute and chronic pain Where other analgesics are not suitable or contraindicated"

5. Who can prescribe the drug i.e. GP or is it specialist only?

Nefopam can be prescribed by a GP but only on advice of a pain team or renal consultant and subject to restrictions as listed on the formulary. For Bassetlaw – as per question 1.

6. If specialist only please define specialist.

For Nefopam, a specialist is defined and restricted on the formulary as a pain team or renal consultant. For Bassetlaw this is not specified.

7. What tests and follow ups are needed for monitoring and safety?

No specific tests are required, however, as with any analgesia it would be good practice for the clinician to review risk and benefits on a regular basis. In Bassetlaw none specified – should follow national guidance, e.g. BNF, SmPC, other recognised healthcare publications.

8. Who the guideline applies to and when it doesn't i.e. patient criteria.

This would be an individualised clinical assessment made by the specialist. Taking into account other medications and interactions, patient age and co-morbidities. Contraindications, warnings, medicine interactions and safety considerations can be seen within the manufacturers data sheet.

NICE guidelines for chronic pain do not list Nefopam as a treatment option.

SIGN guidelines for the management of chronic pain advises that the evidence to support the use of Nefopam is insufficient to make any recommendations. Therefore as Nefopam is not recommended in any national guidelines, any use would need to be following the clinical judgement and decision of the specialist.

There is no published local guideline for Doncaster and Bassetlaw, the above would also apply.

9. Support and escalation pathways for concerns.

For both APCs if a patient has concerns about their treatment, the escalation pathway would be to contact their GP/specialist directly.

If you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) has an internal review procedure through which you can raise any concerns you might have. Further details of this procedure can be obtained by contacting Lucy Branson, Director of Corporate Affairs via lucy.branson@nhs.net or by writing to FOI Team at NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB, Sir John Robinson House, Sir John Robinson Way, Arnold, Daybrook, Nottingham NG5 6DA.

If you remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), who will consider whether the organisation has complied with its obligations under the Act and can require the organisation to remedy any problems. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB. You can find out more about how to do this, and about the Act in general, on the Information Commissioner's Office website at: <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/>.

Complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office should be sent to:

FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Telephone 0303 123 1113 or report a concern via <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information (FOI) Officer on behalf of NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board

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