

Primary Care Prescribing Summary - 1st and 2nd line choices

BNF chapter/section	Drug Group	1 st line choices	2 nd line choices
Chapter 2 Cardiovascular System			
2.1	Cardiac glycosides	Digoxin	
2.2.1	Thiazide diuretics	Indapamide. Chlortalidone (NICE CG Hypertension).	
2.2.2	Loop diuretics	Furosemide	
2.2.3	Aldosterone antagonist	Spirolactone	
2.3	Anti-arrhythmic drugs	Specialist initiated and usually continued in primary care	
2.4	Beta-adrenoceptor blocking drugs	Atenolol. Propranolol. Bisoprolol (heart failure only).	
2.5.4	Alpha-adrenoceptor blocking drugs	Doxazosin-prescribe as standard release tablets	
2.5.5.1	Angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors	Ramipril-prescribe as capsules (not tablets). Lisinopril. Perindopril Erbumine (not arginine).	
2.5.5.2	Angiotensin-II receptor antagonists	Losartan. Candesartan.	Irbesartan. Valsartan-prescribe as capsules (not tablets) and generically.
2.6.1	Nitrates	GTN spray-pump spray prescribe as Nitromin [®] . It is more cost effective to prescribe as 200 dose pack. Isosorbide mononitrate-prescribe as standard release first line 10mg and 20mg tablets (as ISMO [®] 10 or ISMO [®] 20). Isosorbide mononitrate MR for patients that can't comply with standard release: -60mg MR tablets/capsules-Monomil XL [®] tablets -40mg MR tablets/capsules-	Standard tablets are more cost effective than MR formulations. Note asymmetric dosing regime. The second dose should be 8hrs after the first e.g. 8am and 4pm to allow for a nitrate free period.

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		<p>Isotard[®] 40XL tablets -25mg MR tablets/capsules- Elantan LA[®]25 capsules -50mg MR tablets/capsules- Elantan LA[®]50 capsules</p> <p>GTN patches-prescribe as Nitro-Dur[®]</p>	
2.6.2	Calcium-channel blockers	Amlodipine	<p>Diltiazem-branded diltiazem MR preparations are not interchangeable. Angitil SR[®] is the most cost effective twice daily brand and Zemtard[®] XL is the most cost effective once daily brand</p> <p>Nifedipine- branded nifedipine MR preparations are not interchangeable. Coracten SR[®] is the most cost effective twice daily brand and Adipine[®] XL is the most cost effective once daily brand</p>
2.6.3	Other anti-anginal drugs	Nicorandil	
2.8	Anticoagulants and protamine	Warfarin	<p>Phenindione-specialist recommendation. Acenocoumarol-specialist recommendation. Rivaroxaban-specialist initiation, then shared care. Dabigatran-specialist initiation, then shared care. Apixaban-specialist initiation, then shared care.</p>
2.9	Antiplatelet drugs	<p>Aspirin-prescribe as standard not EC tablets. Clopidogrel (generic) (please ensure stop date in ACS).</p>	<p>Prasugrel-specialist initiation (please ensure stop date). Ticagrelor-specialist initiation (please ensure stop date).</p>
2.12	Lipid regulating drugs	Simvastatin	<p>Pravastatin (consider if side effects or intolerance with simvastatin). Atorvastatin</p>