

Prescribing of Rifaximin

Thurrock CCG, and Basildon and Brentwood CCG restricts the prescribing of rifaximin for the indication of prevention of recurrent episodes of hepatic encephalopathy (HE) following specialist initiation only. Prescribing of rifaximin for all other indications is not supported.

Rifaximin is an antibacterial drug of the rifamycin class. It has a broad antimicrobial spectrum against most of the Gram-positive and negative, aerobic and anaerobic bacteria, including ammonia producing species and may inhibit the division of urea-de-aminating bacteria.

Rifaximin is available as:

- Targaxan 550mg tablets licensed for HE
- Xifaxanta 200mg tablets licensed for travellers' diarrhoea

Rifaximin is **NOT RECOMMENDED** for the indication of gastrointestinal disorders including Crohn's disease (CD), Ulcerative Colitis (UC), Diverticular disease (DD), Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), recurrent Clostridium difficile infection and small intestinal bacterial overgrowth (SIBO) or travellers' diarrhoea.

There is limited evidence of increased benefit over existing treatments for the above indications.

Providers commissioned to provide services on behalf of Thurrock CCG and Basildon and Brentwood CCG are reminded that they are required to follow the local joint formulary and prescribing guidance, or relevant Medicines Management agreement.

Position Statement No.	57
Title	Prescribing of Rifaximin
References	East of England Priorities Advisory Committee review of 'Rifaximin for the management of chronic diarrhoea associated with gastro-intestinal disorders': https://www.prescqipp.info/umbraco/surface/authorisedmediasurface/index?url=%2fmedia%2f3220%2frifaximin-for-the-management-of-chronic-diarrhoea-associated-with-gastro-intestinal-disorders.pdf
Acknowledgements	NA
Version	1
Author	Medicines Management Team
Approved by	Basildon and Brentwood CCG and Thurrock CCG Virtual Prescribing Group
Date Approved	May 2020
Review Date	May 2022