North Central London
Joint Formulary Committee

Co-proxamol tablets
Position Statement

Co-proxamol tablets are non-formulary in North Central London.

Prescribers should not initiate co-proxamol for any new patients.

Patients established on co-proxamol should be reviewed with a view to changing the analgesic to a safer alternative.

Co-proxamol is an unlicensed medicine containing a sub-therapeutic dose of paracetamol and a weak opioid. The weak opioid (dextropropoxyphene) is associated with cardiac side effects.

NHS England category: *Products of low clinical effectiveness, where there is a lack of robust evidence of clinical effectiveness or there are significant safety concerns.*

- This decision was reached by the NCL Joint Formulary Committee (JFC) in September 2017 [link]
- Co-proxamol was withdrawn from UK market in 2007; all current use is on an unlicensed basis
- PrescQIPP has produced resources to support clinicians to understand the rationale for co-proxamol no longer being prescribed, and to support switching to another analgesic [link] *
- Consider switching to paracetamol 500 mg tablets, at a dose of 1 gram up to four times daily (when required). A weak opioid (e.g. codeine phosphate) may be added if paracetamol on its own is not effective
- PrescQIPP has made available a patient information leaflet explaining why co-proxamol will no longer be prescribed [link] *

* PrescQIPP documents are available to organisations that subscribe to their service.

Groups / Individuals who have overseen the development of this guidance:	Joint Formulary Support
Groups which were consulted and have given approval:	NCL Joint Formulary Committee
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