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| The **four categories of medicines supply** under the **CUES Service** in Staffordshire | |
| **1. GSL/P Medicines**  ***(any community pharmacy can supply)*** | Under NHSE/I’s OTC policy \*, the eye conditions to which the NHS Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Self-care policy applies are:   1. **Conjunctivitis** 2. **Dry eyes/sore (tired) eyes**   ***Remember:*** *Self-care advice should always be considered before medication!* |
| Therefore, for any medicine supplied for either of the above conditions, the patient will be required to purchase OTC (regardless of age or personal finances). This includes all the GSL and P medicines in the standard CUES/MECS Optometrists’ Formulary, i.e.   1. **Chloramphenicol (P)**, i.e. acute bacterial conjunctivitis only, for adults and children 2 years and over \*\* 2. **Hypromellose** 3. **Carbomer 980** 4. **Liquid Paraffin (either Xailin Night or HYLO NIGHT [formerly VitaPOS] eye ointment)** 5. **Antazoline and Xylometazoline (Otrivine-Antistin)** 6. **Sodium Cromoglicate** 7. **Sodium Hyaluronate**   The CUES patient may buy GSL/P medicines OTC from the optical practice (if in stock). Alternatively, the CUES practitioner may signpost the patient to any community pharmacy for purchase of GSL/P medicines OTC, by means of the **Optometrist Referral to Pharmacy form** *(available from Staffordshire LOC website Downloads tab)* |
| **2. POM Medicines**  ***(CPOSS pharmacy only)*** | There are only two POMs in the standard CUES/MECS optometrists’ Formulary. These are:   1. **Chloramphenicol (POM)**, i.e. First-line topical treatment for superficial ocular infections and as prophylactic following minor ocular trauma, for adults and children 1 month and over *only if 1.0% eye ointment* – 2 years and over if 0.5% eye drops \*\* 2. **Fusidic Acid** |
| Following the discontinuation of Fucithalmic, the cost of Fusidic Acid eye drops is highly exorbitant. Therefore, Chloramphenicol should be used as first line. However, Fusidic Acid is useful in instances of pregnancy or lactation, or in cases of known hypersensitivity to Chloramphenicol \*\*  Pharmacies participating in the **Community Pharmacy Optometry Supply Service (CPOSS)** can supply POMs under a **written order form** issued by the CUES practitioner *(available from Staffordshire LOC website Downloads tab).* Alternatively, there is the option to print off a written order form from the CUES OPERA module.  *POMs cannot be requested using the Optometrist Referral to Pharmacy form.* |
| **3. Long Term Conditions**  ***(FP10 from GP)*** | If the eye condition is secondary to a more general condition, then there is an exception from NHSE/I’s OTC & DLCV policies, i.e. *“Patients prescribed OTC products to treat an adverse effect or symptom of a more complex illness and/or prescription only medications should continue to have these products prescribed on the NHS.”* |
| Staffordshire LOC and Primary Eyecare Services Ltd advise that CUES practitioners can use this exception (sparingly) in requests for repeat medicines from GPs, *quoting both the fact that this is a general exception from the OTC guidance, and quoting the underlined text – with the reason for this deviation*. In so doing, this will help prevent your prescription requests from being bounced back. |
| **4. IP Medicines *(FP10 from IP Optom)*** | The IP Formulary comprises an extended range of topical antibacterials, anti-virals, anti-allergy, steroids, antimuscarinic and NSAIDs, enabling IP optometrists to manage a broader scope of eye conditions under CUES. *Any community pharmacy can dispense to an FP10 from an IP optom.*  It is recommended that both IP and non-IP CUES practitioners utilise the College of Optometrist’s Clinical Management Guidelines (CMGs) \*\*\* |
| *\* Guidance on conditions for which over the counter items should not routinely be prescribed in primary care:* [*NHS England » Guidance on conditions for which over the counter items should not routinely be prescribed in primary care*](https://www.england.nhs.uk/medicines-2/conditions-for-which-over-the-counter-items-should-not-routinely-be-prescribed/)  *\*\* The Optometrists’ Formulary (The College of Optometrists):* [*Optometrists' Formulary (college-optometrists.org)*](about:blank)  *\*\*\* Clinical Management Guidelines (The College of Optometrists):* [*Clinical Management Guidelines (college-optometrists.org)*](about:blank) | |