

Position statement on the prescribing of Amiodarone

Following the NHS England guidance 'Items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care: Guidance for CCGs (version 2, June 2019) the following changes to prescribing have been agreed across Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge.

**From 17th September 2019
Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge Clinical
Commissioning Groups (BHR CCGs) no longer supports the
prescribing of Amiodarone**

Decision

- The decision to stop Amiodarone applies to ALL patients across Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge.

Exceptions

BHR CCGs have agreed exceptions to this recommendation, where they accept that prescribing should continue in primary care. These include:

Specialist initiation and/or continuation under locally agreed arrangements for:

- Atrial fibrillation where other treatments cannot be used, have failed or is in line with the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) clinical guideline: [NICE Guidance CG180](#)- management of atrial fibrillation.
- Prior to and post cardioversion
- Heart failure or left ventricular impairment.

This decision was made because:

- Amiodarone has potential major toxicity and its use requires monitoring both clinically and via laboratory testing.
- BHR CCGs have a duty to spend taxpayer's money wisely, to make sure they get the best value possible – especially when NHS funding is being severely squeezed and more patients are being seen with more complex health issues than ever before

Reference:

NHS England and NHS Improvement. Items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care: Guidance for CCGs. Version 2, June 2019. Publishing approval reference 000608 <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/items-which-should-not-be-routinely-prescribed-in-primary-care-guidance-for-ccgs/>