**INFORM Formulary Prescribing Categories**

Please refer to formulary notes and prescribing pathways for full guidance on position in treatment.

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| **Symbol** | **Category** | **Definition** |
| **G** | **General Use – all prescribers** | Initiation, stabilisation and ongoing monitoring may be undertaken by any prescriber including those in Primary Care.  |
| **SR** | **Specialist Recommended** | The recommendation to use a specific medicine is made by a specialist but there is no need for the specialist to initiate the medication.  |
| **SI** | **Specialist Initiated**  | Initiation and stabilisation should be undertaken by a specialist. Follow‑up prescriptions may be issued by any prescriber.  |
| **SI (with SCP tag)** | **Specialist initiated with a Shared Care Protocol** | Initiation, stabilisation and on-going monitoring should be undertaken by a specialist, but follow-up prescriptions may be issued by any prescriber following agreement to share care, in accordance with the Shared Care Protocol. |
| **SI (with NPT tag)** | **Specialist initiated with a Shared Care Protocol and Near Patient Testing**  | Initiation, initial monitoring and stabilisation should be undertaken by a specialist. On-going monitoring and follow-up prescriptions may be issued by any prescriber, following agreement to share care and undertake Near Patient Testing, in accordance with the protocol. Note: Near Patient Testing is subject to a Local Enhanced Service agreement. |
| **SO** | **Specialist Only** | Initiation and on-going prescribing may only be undertaken by a prescriber designated as a specialist in that therapeutic area. Prescribing must not be referred to a non-specialist.  |
| **HO** | **Hospital Only**  | Prescribing and monitoring responsibility remains with a specialist. Prescriptions are normally issued from Secondary Care or use only applies in a Secondary Care setting. Any exception to this should be supported by an approved protocol. |
| **NIP** | **Not In Pathway** | Clinical Board Director approval is required |
| **MC** | **Multiple Category** | Please see treatment pathways for advice as category varies depending on indication. |
| **NF** | **Non-formulary** | Medicines that are not included on INFORM medicines formulary. Cardiff and Vale UHB recognises that some patients may require treatment with a non-formulary medicine. See the Health Board’s [Medicines Code](http://www.cardiffandvaleuhb.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/documents/1143/Medicines%20Code%20Final%20v3%20for%20upload%20update%202019.pdf) section 4.3.1 “Formulary and non-formulary medicines” for further information. |

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