

**Policy Recommendation:                    Liothyronine in the Treatment of Primary Hypothyroidism**

**Date of Issue:**                    Jan 2018

**The use of liothyronine in the treatment of hypothyroidism**

The Committee considered the use of liothyronine in the treatment of primary hypothyroidism, which is currently around 100 times more expensive than standard treatment with levothyroxine.

The committee recommends:

- Treatment with liothyronine should not be initiated in primary care
- Hypothyroidism should be treated first line with levothyroxine
- Patients whose symptoms are inadequately treated with optimal doses of levothyroxine should be referred to an NHS endocrinologist using Advice and Guidance and eReferral systems
- Consultants wishing to consider treatment with liothyronine will be required to complete a proforma supplied by the District Prescribing Committee and submitted to the CSU prior to prescribing.
- Treatment with liothyronine will need to be reviewed by the specialist at 3 months before prescribing can be considered for transfer to primary care.

Patients already being prescribed liothyronine in primary care, who are not currently under the care of an NHS Specialist, may be candidates for opportunistic review according to the above recommendations.

*Notes:*

***Whilst the panel recognised the considered expert advice of NICE in their recommendation the panel also had a duty to prioritise spending of a finite resource locally and made a decision which it felt gave the most equitable and effective use of investment.***