

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board Priorities Committee

Policy title	Policy 27: Liothyronine in the treatment of primary hypothyroidism
Policy position	Criteria Based Access
Date of issue	January 2023
Update	This policy will be updated as per 3-year cycle or in light of a substantial body of new evidence or new national guidance (e.g. NICE)

This policy relates to the prescribing of liothyronine in the treatment of primary hypothyroidism. There is insufficient evidence that liothyronine offers benefits over levothyroxine monotherapy, and its long-term adverse effects are uncertain. Additionally, liothyronine is significantly more expensive than levothyroxine.

Patients whose symptoms are inadequately treated with optimal doses of levothyroxine should be referred to an NHS consultant endocrinologist using Advice and Guidance and eReferral systems.

- Hypothyroidism should be treated first line with levothyroxine.
- Consultants wishing to consider treatment with liothyronine will be required to complete a prior approval proforma and submitted to the NHS South, Central and West Commissioning Support Unit 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.

Please note:

- Treatment with liothyronine should not be initiated in primary care.
- An NHS consultant endocrinologist should review patients currently prescribed liothyronine to consider switching to levothyroxine where clinically appropriate. Prescriptions for liothyronine should continue until that review has occurred. Withdrawal or adjustment of liothyronine treatment should only be undertaken or overseen by an NHS consultant endocrinologist
- Private consultants initiating treatment with liothyronine should inform their patients that liothyronine is not normally prescribed in the NHS, and that request to continue to use liothyronine on the NHS will be subject to a review by an NHS consultant endocrinologist, within this criteria-based access system.

References:

1. NICE (2019) Thyroid disease: assessment and management, NICE Guideline [NG145]
2. NHS England Specialist Pharmacy Service (2019) Guidance - Prescribing of Liothyronine, Regional Medicines Optimisation Committee (RMOC), V 2.6

Version	Date	Reason for change
Version 1	2018	New policy
Version 2	Agreed by HSI&P Clinical Operational Group, Planning, June 2021 (Ratified by Board - July 2022)	3 yearly updates. Minor wording amendment re review of patients currently being prescribed liothyronine agreed. To include information for consultants prescribing liothyronine for their private patients.

Exceptional circumstances may be considered where there is evidence of significant health impairment and there is also evidence of the intervention improving health status