

## STAKEHOLDER BRIEFING

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For distribution to: GM Primary Care Networks

# Cholesterol management and secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease – updates for Greater Manchester

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## Background

- [National Lipids Optimisation Programme](#)

## CVD Prevention Resources

- [GMMMGM approved lipid pathway](#)
- [Quality and Outcomes Framework guidance for 2023/24](#)
- [GM CVD prevention lipid management case finding tool](#)
- [Inclisiran Prescribing, Ordering and Cost Information](#)

## Educational Webinars

- [Lipid management for secondary prevention of CVD](#)
- [Inclisiran: information, guidance and prescribing](#)
- [Managing Cholesterol in Greater Manchester](#)

## Further Resources

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## Background

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) causes a quarter of all deaths in the UK and is the largest cause of premature mortality in deprived areas.

Risk factors that contribute to CVD, such as a high cholesterol, are more prevalent in groups of lower socio-economic status, and there is a clear link between societal inequality and poorer CVD outcomes.<sup>1 2</sup>

The biggest area where the NHS can save lives over the next 10 years is in reducing the incidence of CVD, through targeted approaches to reduce the widening of health inequalities.

Hypercholesterolaemia (high blood cholesterol) is a significant risk factor for CVD, and evidence suggests that improving the detection of those with hypercholesterolaemia and ensuring they received effective treatment will have significant benefits.

As highlighted in the [Greater Manchester Cardiovascular Prevention Plan](#), improving cardiovascular health and reducing cardiovascular mortality is now a priority for Greater Manchester, including secondary prevention of lipids.

## National Lipids Optimisation Programme

The AHSN Network is delivering a 3-year National Lipids Optimisation Programme <sup>3</sup>, which aims to improve the management of cholesterol, increase the detection of those with Familial Hypercholesterolaemia and optimise the use of all medicines for patients on the cholesterol management pathway.

Working in partnership with the Accelerated Access Collaborative (AAC) Rapid Uptake Products (RUP) lipid management programme, the AHSN Network are working to improve patient access to appropriate medicines on the lipids management pathway using the NICE-recommended clinical pathway, alongside other factors such as lifestyle changes.

## CVD Prevention Resources

### 1. GMMMG approved lipid pathway

- Created in collaboration with healthcare professionals across the Greater Manchester system and approved by GMMMG, healthcare professionals can now access the Greater Manchester lipid pathway. This pathway complements the [NHSE/NICE Lipid pathway \(Dec 2022\)](#) which provides national guidance for lipid management for primary and secondary prevention of CVD.
- Access the Greater Manchester lipid pathway [here](#).**

### 2. **\*\*NEW\*\*** Quality and Outcomes Framework guidance for 2023/24

Two new indicators related to cholesterol and lipid management directly link to the lipid optimisation workforce support offer:

Cholesterol control and lipid management (CHOL)	Points	Thresholds
<b>Ongoing management</b>		
CHOL001. Percentage of patients on the QOF Coronary Heart Disease, Peripheral Arterial Disease, Stroke/TIA or Chronic Kidney Disease Register who are currently prescribed a statin, or where a statin is declined or clinically unsuitable, another lipid-lowering therapy	14	70-95%
CHOL002. Percentage of patients on the QOF Coronary Heart Disease, Peripheral Arterial Disease, or Stroke/TIA Register, who have a recording of non-HDL cholesterol in the preceding 12 months that is lower than 2.5 mmol/L, or where non-HDL cholesterol is not recorded a recording of LDL cholesterol in the preceding 12 months that is lower than 1.8 mmol/L	16	20-35%

- LDL-C management for secondary prevention is a clinical priority for patients and the NHS, as recognised by incentives in the 2023/2024 QOF amounting to 30 points and ~£36 million in funds.
- The 2023/2024 updates of QOF include a non-HDL target that is lower than 2.5 mmol/L or where non-HDL cholesterol is not recorded an LDL-C target of lower than 1.8 mmol/L for secondary prevention patients.
- The 1.8 mmol/L LDL-C target in the QOF may not be reachable for some patients with statins alone.
- Additional lipid lowering therapy options are now included in the Greater Manchester Lipid Management Pathway for Secondary Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease (CVD)
- Many high-risk CVD patients could still benefit from further treatment optimisation and combinations of therapies within the lipid management pathway
- CHOL001: To achieve this indicator patients within these registers will need to have a prescription for a statin or other lipid lowering therapy on their records at the point that the QOF data pull
- CHOL002: To achieve this indicator patients within these secondary prevention registers will need to have a non-HDLC or LDLC reading at or below these targets within the 12-month QOF Period. The current percentage achievement of this indicator in Manchester ICB is 24.66% (ref Data Explorer | CVDPREVENT).
- This means many patients will require additional optimisation of their lipid lowering therapy during this time window. UK guidance requires a 12 week wait from initiation of therapy to re-testing of lipids. **This means practices will need to undertake lipid optimisation work by 31.12.23** in order to get the appropriate follow up test result in the system before the QOF data is pulled from the system.
- **Access the QOF guidance [here](#)**

### 3. GM CVD prevention lipid management case finding tool

- Searches for the identification of high-risk people requiring lipid optimisation for secondary prevention of CVD have been developed. The searches risk-stratify patients into five cohort groups depending on intervention required and includes eligibility for injectable therapies. This is part of the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Systems CVD prevention initiative. The searches are available on clinical systems in the data quality folder.
- **Access guidance for case finding using TPP System One [here](#)**
- **Access guidance for case finding using EMIS [here](#)**

### 4. Inclisiran Prescribing, Ordering and Cost Information

- Approved by NICE and listed as Green by GMMMG, Inclisiran is an injection-based lipid treatment to reduce LDL cholesterol. It has been identified by NHS England and NHS Improvement as a medicine that can help tackle lipid management in a large high-risk patient population.

- Inclisiran addresses a current gap in the range of treatment options available for people with Atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease in who lipid targets cannot be met on maximally tolerated statin treatment or with other lipid-lowering therapies.
- **\*\*NEW\*\*** Summary information on the funding and supply of inclisiran: access [here](#).
- Inclisiran prescribing, ordering and cost information: access [here](#).
- Patient Information Leaflet for Inclisiran and cholesterol: access [here](#).

All resources for CVD prevention in Greater Manchester can be accessed on the [Health Innovation Manchester website](#).

## Educational Webinars

Educational webinars are now available to learn more about CVD prevention for patients across Greater Manchester. Note: completion of these webinars will count towards CVD portfolio points.

1. Lipid management for secondary prevention of CVD
  - Covers the importance of lowering cholesterol; information on measuring blood lipid profiles; an overview of the lipid management pathway; the role of statins in lipid management; how to optimise lipid treatment of patients with established CVD; guidance for Familial Hypercholesterolaemia and Hypertriglyceridemia; and case findings.
  - **Access the webinar [here](#).**
2. Inclisiran: information, guidance and prescribing
  - Covers inclisiran use, safety, efficacy and side effects, NICE and GMMMG guidelines; information for prescribing, administration, ordering, inclisiran case findings and models of care.
  - **Access the webinar [here](#).**
3. Managing Cholesterol in Greater Manchester
  - Presentations from the Managing Cholesterol in Greater Manchester event in February 2023 provide guidance for healthcare professionals in GM on how to identify high-risk people requiring lipid optimisation for secondary prevention of CVD.
  - **Access event highlights [here](#).**

## Further Resources

1. HeartUK have a variety of resources available for health professionals working with lipid conditions:
  - Tackling Cholesterol Together: HEART UK has partnered with the NHS Accelerated Access Collaborative (AAC) and the Academic Health Science (AHSN) Network to provide a comprehensive and varied education programme for healthcare professionals: **access [here](#)**.
  - Resources for healthcare professionals: **access [here](#)**.
  - Resources for patients: **access [here](#)**
2. Podcast: Cholesterol Management in General Practice
  - o The 'Primary Care Knowledge Boost' podcast aims to improve the confidence and knowledge of local primary care clinicians through interviews with specialists from around Greater Manchester.
  - o Dr Aseem Mishra is an Academic GP trainee who has been involved in helping produce the Guidelines for the Greater Manchester Lipid Pathway. Dr Mishra talks through guidelines for how to treat hyperlipidaemia, recent changes to these guidelines, and injectable treatments for secondary prevention. Follow the link to listen and access further resources.
  - o **Listen to the podcast [here](#)**

## Contact

Please direct any queries to [info@healthinnovationmanchester.com](mailto:info@healthinnovationmanchester.com)

## References

<sup>1</sup> Heart UK's Closing the Cholesterol gap report: <https://www.heartuk.org.uk/news/latest/post/173-closing-the-cholesterol-gap>

<sup>2</sup> CVDPREVENT: <https://www.nhsbenchmarking.nhs.uk/cvdpreventlanding>

<sup>3</sup> National Lipids Optimisation Programme: <https://www.ahsnnetwork.com/about-academic-health-science-networks/national-programmes-priorities/lipid-management-and-fh>