

South East London Area Prescribing Committee
Prescribing of liothyronine in oncology: thyroid and parathyroid disease
Position Statement

Reference	PS-015
Intervention	Liothyronine tablets for temporary thyroid replacement therapy after thyroidectomy and prior to radioiodine therapy
Date of Decision	March 2019
Date of Issue	April 2019
Recommendation	RED – suitable for prescribing and supply by hospital only
Further Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liothyronine tablets, as a short bridging course, is recommended for thyroid replacement therapy after a thyroidectomy in preparation for radioiodine remnant ablation (RRA) or radioiodine therapy. Liothyronine has a short half-life which means that it does not require to be stopped so far in advance of radioiodine. • The prescribing is considered for short term use as part of the endocrine management and prescribing responsibilities should be retained by the specialist team involved with the management of the patient (e.g. endocrinology, surgery or oncology). • Short term use of liothyronine is sometimes also advised in preparation for a sestamibi parathyroid scan. • Prescribing and supply in such situations will be undertaken by the specialist hospital. No prescribing or supply should take place in primary care for this indication.
Shared Care/Transfer of care document	Not applicable
Cost Impact for agreed patient group	No change in current practice, therefore no additional cost impact is anticipated.
Usage Monitoring & Impact Assessment	<p>Acute Trusts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and audit use and report back to APC when required. <p>CCGs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor ePACT data • Monitor exception reports from GPs if inappropriate transfer of prescribing to primary care is requested.
Evidence Reviewed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Medicines Optimisation Committee Guidance: Prescribing of liothyronine (November 2018). Available via: https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/rmoc-guidance-prescribing-of-liothyronine/ last accessed 05/02/19 • Management of primary hypothyroidism: statement by the British Thyroid association Executive Committee. Available via: http://www.btf-thyroid.org/images/documents/BTA_Hypothyroidism_Statement.pdf last accessed on 05/02/19 • The diagnosis and management of primary hyperthyroidism. Royal College of Physicians. Available via: http://www.thyroiduk.org.uk/tuk/guidelines/RCP_statement_20111.pdf last accessed: 16/05/2018 last accessed: 05/02/19 • PrescQIPP bulletin 121, February 2016: Switching liothyronine (L-T3) to levothyroxine (L-T4) in the management of primary hypothyroidism https://www.prescqip.info/component/downloads/send/225-liothyronine/2359-b121-liothyronine-drop-list last accessed: 05/02/19 • Items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care: Guidance for CCGs, NHS Clinical Commissioners and NHS England: https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Items-not-routinely-prescribed-in-primary-care.pdf last accessed: 05/02/19

NOTES:

- Area Prescribing Committee recommendations, position statements and minutes are available publicly via the [APC webpages](#).
- This Area Prescribing Committee recommendation has been made on the cost effectiveness, patient outcome and safety data available at the time. The recommendation will be subject to review if new data becomes available, costs are higher than expected or new NICE guidelines or technology appraisals are issued.
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