



## Outpatient Prescribing

- **Outpatients** – urgent treatment or short courses should be given by a hospital prescription
- Refer to the Frimley Formulary (<http://www.frimleyhealthformulary.nhs.uk/>) to confirm the “Traffic Light Classification” for the medication and accompanying guidance on appropriate prescribing responsibilities:
- **Red** = Prescribing remains with the specialist for the duration of treatment. Send information on the medication being prescribed to primary care so that it can be documented in the medical record but retain prescribing within the specialist setting.
- **Amber with shared care** = The specialist should initiate prescribing. The duration that prescribing will remain with the specialist prior to requesting shared care will be defined in the shared care document available on the Frimley Formulary: <http://www.frimleyhealthformulary.nhs.uk/>. Once the criteria for requesting shared care are met then write to primary care to ask if care can be shared. Include a copy of the shared care document in this communication.
- **Amber without shared care** or **Green** = Where a service user has a need for the medication to be started within 14 days then prescribe to the service user an adequate quantity of that medication to meet the service user’s immediate clinical needs until primary care receives the relevant clinic letter and can prescribe accordingly. It is recommended that this be **at least 14 days**. If the **medication is prescribed as a course rather than a long-term treatment, then supply the full course**. Where immediate commencement of medication is not required, the specialist will communicate the details to the primary care clinician to action. The prescriber will also reassure the patient that commencing therapy with the medication is not clinically urgent and it may take some time to process the prescription. Communication to primary care will include the medication (or class of medication) to be prescribed, duration of medication and relevant information to enable safe prescribing. If local practice and protocols require supply for a longer period, this must be honoured unless alternative local arrangements are agreed.