

**South East London Area Prescribing Committee
Formulary recommendation**

Reference	036
Intervention:	Brinzolamide/brimonidine tartrate ophthalmic suspension (Simbrinza®) 10mg/mL + 2mg/mL for reduction of elevated intraocular pressure (Simbrinza is a fixed combination eye-drop containing the carbonic anhydrase inhibitor brinzolamide and the alpha-2 adrenoreceptor agonist (sympathomimetic) brimonidine tartrate)
Date of Decision	May 2015
Date of Issue:	June 2015
Recommendation:	Amber – specialist initiation in line with the criteria below. Treatment can be continued in primary care following specialist initiation.
Further Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brinzolamide/brimonidine tartrate ophthalmic suspension (Simbrinza®) is accepted for use in South East London within its licensed indication for the treatment of chronic open angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension in adults for whom monotherapy did not sufficiently reduce intraocular pressure (IOP). • Latanoprost is the first line option for treating these patients. • In line with European Glaucoma Society guidelines, fixed combination preparations are not first line medications and are only indicated in patients who need adjunctive therapy. • Currently brinzolamide/brimonidine tartrate ophthalmic suspension (Simbrinza®) is the only fixed dose combination eye preparation available that does not contain a beta-blocker. • Brinzolamide/brimonidine tartrate ophthalmic suspension (Simbrinza®) may be considered in the following circumstances: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. After a prostaglandin analogue or after a prostaglandin analogue + carbonic anhydrase inhibitor - in those patients for whom beta-blocker containing eye drops are not suitable and monotherapy provides insufficient IOP reduction. ii. After a prostaglandin analogue + beta blocker - in those patients where maximum therapy is required (four agents) but using the fixed combination will benefit the patient (for example improved adherence through a reduction in the number of bottles they are using or reduced exposure to preservatives). • For use in the groups above, brinzolamide/ brimonidine tartrate ophthalmic suspension (Simbrinza®) may be considered once a person has been treated with one of the constituents and has had a partial response. • The initial prescription and supply will come from the specialist team. Prescribing can then be continued in primary care by the GP. • An algorithm for the treatment of glaucoma should be developed jointly in conjunction with other Trusts in South East London. The algorithm should outline the place in therapy of the preparations listed in the formulary for treating raised IOP. The algorithm should also list contact details for the Trust ophthalmology teams for GPs to contact for advice. The algorithm should be submitted to the APC for consultation and approval within 6 months of the date of issue of this recommendation.
Shared Care/ Transfer of care required:	Not considered necessary as other glaucoma treatments are already widely prescribed in primary care on the advice of a specialist.

Cost Impact for agreed patient group	<p>From evidence evaluation and submission form:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on current Drug Tariff prices (June 2015) an 8ml bottle of Simbrinza® costs £9.23 for a month's treatment. • Brinzolamide/brimonidine tartrate ophthalmic suspension (Simbrinza®) is comparable in price to the separate constituent products prescribed together individually on the prescription form. Therefore the addition of Simbrinza® to the formulary is likely to be cost neutral. Usage will be monitored as per details below.
Usage Monitoring & Impact Assessment	<p>Acute Trusts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor usage on a 6-monthly basis and report back to APC. • Submission of glaucoma treatment algorithm for consultation and approval by the end of December 2015. • Audit usage in line with the criteria in this recommendation and treatment algorithm as required by the APC. <p>CCGs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor impact data and exception reporting as needed of inappropriate use to Trust via formulary teams.
Evidence reviewed	<p>References (from evidence evaluation)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NICE. Glaucoma: brinzolamide/brimonidine combination eye drops. Published March 2015. accessed via https://www.nice.org.uk/advice/esnm56 2. European Glaucoma Society: Terminology and guidelines for glaucoma, 4th Edition (June 2014), available via: http://www.eugs.org/eng/EGS_guidelines4.asp

NOTES:

- a) Area Prescribing Committee recommendations and minutes are available publically on member CCG websites.
- b) 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.
- c) **Not to be used for commercial or marketing purposes. Strictly for use within the NHS**