



Dysphagia
Friendly
Drinks

Slõ Syrup – Non-Formulary Access Pack (Pre-ACBS)

A concise guide to support access for individual patients when powdered thickeners are not suitable.

This pack supports clinician-led access to **Slõ Syrup** for **individual patients with dysphagia** where powdered thickeners are **not tolerated or not adhered to**, using established NHS non-formulary governance routes.

It is intended to guide clinicians through the **appropriate approval and initiation process**. It is not a request for routine formulary inclusion.

Non-Formulary Access – Quick Route Guide

Use this guide to identify the appropriate access route before submitting a request.

Step 1: Identify the clinical issue

Does the patient have dysphagia and struggle to tolerate or adhere to powdered thickeners?

Yes: continue below

No: continue with standard formulary options

Step 2: Confirm clinical rationale

Is poor tolerance or non-adherence creating a risk to safe hydration or aspiration management?

Yes: a liquid drinks thickener may be clinically appropriate

No: review current management

Step 3: Is the patient under hospital consultant care?

Yes: Route 1 (preferred): Consultant-initiated non-formulary request

Submit a non-formulary (named patient) request via Trust Medicines Management. If approved, initiate in secondary care and document in the discharge summary or clinic letter. Primary care can usually continue prescribing.

No: continue to Step 4

Step 4: Does your ICB allow GP-led non-formulary prescribing?

Yes: Route 2: GP-led non-formulary exception request

Submit a patient-specific non-formulary request to local Medicines Management.

No: continue to Step 5

Step 5: IFR (only if mandated locally)

If local governance requires this route, submit an Individual Funding Request based on exceptional clinical need, not patient preference.

Product overview

Slō Syrup is an **unflavoured liquid drinks thickener** for patients with dysphagia.

This format difference is clinically relevant in situations where:

- powdered thickeners are not tolerated
- adherence to thickening advice is compromised
- continued safe hydration would otherwise be at risk.

1. Clinical rationale

Effective dysphagia management relies on adherence to prescribed thickening advice. Where powdered thickeners are not tolerated or not used as recommended, patients may be exposed to increased risks including:

- dehydration
- aspiration
- avoidable clinical deterioration or re-admission

Slō Syrup is intended for **exceptional, patient-specific use** where standard powdered thickeners have proven ineffective or unacceptable.

2. Governance position

Slō Syrup is non-formulary and is not proposed for routine prescribing.

Use is intended to be: clinician-led - for named patients - time-limited - subject to review. This request is not preference-based and does not replace standard formulary options.

Individual Funding Requests (IFRs) are not routinely required and should only be used where local governance mandates this route.

3. Cost reassurance

The per-drink cost difference between Slō Syrup and powdered thickeners is small (approximately a few pence per drink) and is **not expected to materially impact prescribing budgets** when used for individual, clinically justified cases.

4. Summary request

Approval is requested for non-formulary use of Slō Syrup for individual patients with dysphagia where powdered thickeners are not tolerated or adhered to, in order to support safe hydration and adherence to clinical recommendations.

Specialist Initiation Request

The following paragraph is the suggested wording for an application.

The patient below has dysphagia and has been unable to tolerate or adhere to the powdered thickener currently prescribed. This presents an ongoing risk to safe hydration and aspiration management.

To mitigate this risk and assess tolerability, the patient was provided with samples of an alternative liquid drinks thickener (Slō Syrup), which were tolerated.

Slō Syrup is not currently on the local formulary. I therefore recommend a clinician-led, time-limited trial of Slō Syrup as a liquid drinks thickener, prepared in accordance with instructions, for a period of ____ weeks. The expected quantity has been identified.

The patient will be reviewed on: _____.

Supporting Data Sheet

Prescribing and product information — including **PIP codes, pack sizes, nutritional data and preparation instructions** — is available to download separately: **Prescribing & Product Information (Pre-ACBS)**

This guidance is provided to support clinicians navigating local NHS governance processes. Approval routes and requirements may vary by Trust or ICB.