



MOP UP.

Medicines
Optimisation
Update

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BSW Area Prescribing Committee (APC) Updates

The [BSW APC website](#) includes info on the APC and the formulary decision making process. Decisions from the June 2021 meeting have been ratified and can be found in full [here](#). Of particular note:

- [Estradiol 1.53 mg/spray estradiol transdermal spray \(Lenzetto®\)](#). Topical oestrogen HRT added as second/third line option after existing formulary choices of oestrogen patches/gels. May be useful for patients with allergies to patches. **GREEN TLS** Note: *BSW HRT pathway currently being updated*
- [Hydrocortisone 3.35mg/ml eye drops 0.4ml unit dose \(Softacort®\)](#) Change from RED to **AMBER TLS** to bring in line with other steroid eyedrops on BSW formulary e.g. Maxidex® and FML®. Softacort® is slightly more expensive but may be preferred due to potency, a favourable safety profile and preservative-free formulation.
- **Updated** – [BSW&AWP Shared Care Guideline for the Treatment of Alzheimer's Disease](#). Update adds contact details from the 3 acute Trusts into an existing SCA that previously just included the commissioned AWP memory clinic.

POD Update

Wiltshire and Swindon Prescription Ordering Direct teams have continued to support surgeries throughout the pandemic. In the last few months, we have sorted alternative prescriptions for unavailable items, helped patients with their catheters, supported adherence to anticoagulants and antidepressants, advised patients about their sip feeds and “food first” among many other interventions. Now operating as a single BSW Team, the service has recently expanded to include Malmesbury Primary Care Centre. During September, we will see Northlands surgery coming on board, while other surgeries such as Heart of Bath and Barcroft have expressed an interest to join.

Moreover, many care homes across BSW now utilise POD to order medication, which has reduced the workload for their GP surgeries considerably while improving the safety of the prescribing and reducing costs (estimated £30,000 monthly savings)

If your surgery or PCN would like to know more about POD or express your interest in the service, please email us:

bswccg.podadmin@nhs.net

MHRA Drug Safety Update

Some licences for chloramphenicol eye drop products containing borax or boric acid buffers were recently updated to restrict use in children younger than 2 years of age to reflect warnings on maximum daily limits for boron exposure. Following a review of the available toxicological data, MHRA has recently published a Drug Safety Update which concluded that the balance between the benefit and risks of chloramphenicol eye drops containing borax or boric acid remains positive for children aged 0 to 2 years. **Chloramphenicol eye drops can be safely administered to children aged 0 to 2 years where antibiotic eye drop treatment is indicated.**

The product information for affected chloramphenicol products is being **updated** to reflect the revised advice and **remove restrictions** for use in infants. In the meantime, healthcare professionals should **reassure** parents and carers that these products can be safely given to children aged 0 to 2 years at the time of prescribing.

The [BSW primary care antibiotic guidance](#) has been updated to reflect this.

Resources to support prescribing of hypnotics and anxiolytics

The All Wales Medicines Strategy Group have recently published a resource pack aiming to support the appropriate prescribing and review of hypnotics and anxiolytics. The pack includes examples of support material such as assessment tools, patient information leaflets and reduction/withdrawal resources. Further information can be found here: [Material to support appropriate prescribing of hypnotics and anxiolytics across Wales - All Wales Medicines Strategy Group \(nhs.wales\)](#)

New cost-effective brands

Vagirux 10 micrograms vaginal tablets replaces **Vagifem** as the preferred brand of **estradiol** containing vaginal tablets.

This new brand is £5.38 cheaper per pack, and consistent use of Vagirux rather than Vagifem or generically written prescriptions could generate savings in excess of £100,000 across the BSW area.

Vagirux also has the benefit of having a single multi-use applicator which can be used up to 24 times and is recyclable, reducing the amount of plastic waste being produced. This applicator is very similar to that of Vagifem; most patients will find it easy to use, thus preventing any problems with switching.

A new brand of **Calcipotriol 50micrograms/g with Betamethasone 0.05% ointment** is available; **Dalonev** replaces **Dovobet** as the BSW preferred cost-effective brand.

Switching from Dovobet ointment to Dalonev ointment could save up to £90 per patient per year, and approximately £60,000 across BSW.

ACTION: GP surgeries may switch appropriate patients to Vagirux® 10 micrograms vaginal tablets or to Dalonev® ointment to ensure cost-effective prescribing.

Please remember to view the updated [PWSL document](#)

CQC Inspections – Clinical System Prescribing Searches

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the CQC has explored ways to minimise contact required with GP surgeries while continuing to regulate general practice. They have [published a list](#) of potential prescribing areas they are likely to search on clinical systems for evidence of safe and effective prescribing and monitoring of medications, along with the appropriate action of medication safety alerts. The list currently includes monitoring for DMARDs (e.g. methotrexate, azathioprine, leflunomide) high risk medicines (e.g. lithium, DOACs, Warfarin), and MHRA/CAS medication safety alerts (e.g. Valproate and valproic acid – teratogenicity risk and need for Pregnancy Prevention Plan). The searches will be regularly reviewed and updated. This will reflect changes to guidance, new alerts or areas considered to be important for additional review.

Full details can be found here [GP mythbuster 12: Accessing medical records during inspections | Care Quality Commission \(cqc.org.uk\)](#)

Ardens support article '[CQC Key Lines of Enquiry \(KLOE\) Potential Searches on SystemOne](#)' gives information about tools within Ardens that can be used to demonstrate work in the relevant clinical areas currently highlighted by the CQC, helping to illustrate the level of safe and effective clinical care you are providing.

MOT Website New documents uploaded

July Webinar presentations: -

Environmental impact of inhalers
<https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=8676>

Quarterly reports
<https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=8678>

Challenging Areas of Practice 'On The Couch' discussion Sessions for Primary Care Pharmacy Professionals

Specialist Pharmacy Services (SPS) are piloting a series of five webinars, aiming to connect specialist pharmacists with primary care pharmacy staff in an informal 'on the couch' discussion format. The purpose of these webinars is to discuss 'grey' areas of practice, with interaction from attendees through the chat box. Further information on how to access the webinars and a brief video to introduce the series can be found here [New Series: Discussions on challenging areas of practice in primary care – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice](#)

'Asking the Right Questions Before Contacting Your Local Medicines Information Service', was the first in the series. Slides and a recording can be found [HERE](#)

To access you'll need to be registered (which is free) and logged in to the SPS website.

Join the next webinar on Thursday 19th August.

Reminder for Quantities of GLP-1 Mimetics

At the end of 2019 we highlighted an issue with prescribing a quantity of 4 x Semaglutide instead of 1 (which is enough for a 1-month supply). This seems to still be the case in some surgeries, with at least 20 patients across BSW being prescribed excess, and we wanted to remind everyone that these are expensive items- please prescribe them sensibly.

ACTION: Review and adjust quantities of GLP 1 inhibitors being prescribed to ensure that more than intended quantities are not mistakenly prescribed, dispensed and charged for.

The MO team will be in touch with those practices where there are prescriptions to review.