

FROM	TO	Recommendations	Resources
Technician switches			
Alfuzosin 10mg MR	Besavar XL 10mg		
Alphagan	Brimonidine		
Any bath preparation, bath oil, shower gel or wash	STOP (Can offer Epimax or Isomol as soap substitute)	Stop use - use moisturising emollient as soap substitute (for all patients including young children)	BSW Emollient Prescribing Guidance for Adults and Children
Arimidex or Femara	Anastrozole or Letrozole		
Asacol	Octasa		
Aveeno	Epimax Oatmeal Cream	Switch to cost-effective creams, including Cetraben. Do not switch in leg ulcer patients. Stop moisturising creams used occasionally for dry skin patients	BSW Emollient Prescribing Guidance for Adults and Children
Azopt	Brinzolamide		
Bimatoprost/Timolol eye drops preservative free or Ganfort unit dose eye drops	Bimiduo preservative free	Switching from unit dose to multidose bottle contributes towards sustainability (reduction in plastic waste)	
Blephasol, Blephagel, Blephaclean	Stop or purchase OTC	Stop eyelid hygiene products	
BuTrans or buprenorphine patch	Bunov (Second line: Sevodyne if Bunov not tolerated or is unavailable)		
Buprenorphine, Butec, Butrans & Reletrans patches - 15microgram strength ONLY	Sevodyne 15microgram patch		
Calcichew 1000/800, Calcichew D3 chewable	Accrete D3 One a day/theiCal- D3 chewable tablets (OD dosing) OR Accrete D3 film coated tablets (BD dosing). Adcal caplets can be used for Dosettes.	Most cost-effective brands; switch if discharged on Adcal D3 chewable formulation.	
Carmellose 0.5% PF (Carmize 0.5% eye drops/Cellusan light 0.5% eye drops PF/Evolve carmellose 0.5% eye drops PF/Ocu-lube carmellose 0.5% eye drops PF/Optho-lique 0.5% eye drops/Celluvisc 0.5% eye drops 0.4ml unit dose/Xailin fresh 0.5% eye drops 0.4ml unit dose PF/Tearvis 0.5% eye drops)	Aaqeye carmellose 0.5% eye drops	Avoid switching if a very severe case of dry eyes	BSW Dry Eye Guidance

2025/2026 Savings Recommendations
Prescribe Well – Spend Less

Cerazette	Desogestrel	If not on repeat, leave note for next prescriber to switch. Prescribe by brand in patients with soya or nut allergy (some generics contain ingredients unsuitable for soya or nut allergy sufferers - check individual SPCs).	
Cialis (20mg or 10mg)	Tadalafil		ED guidance
Circadin MR tablets	Melatonin MR tablets		BSW ICB Primary Care Guidance for the use of Melatonin for Sleep Disorders in Adults with Learning Disability and Behaviour that Challenges BSW Guidelines for the use of Melatonin in Children
Co-careldopa (10mg/100mg and 25mg/250mg)	Sinemet		
Creams and emollients; Diprobase, Cetraben, E45, Aqueous cream	Epimax (or ExCetra for leg ulcer care)	Switch to cost-effective creams, including Cetraben. Do not switch in leg ulcer patients. Stop moisturising creams used occasionally for dry skin patients	BSW Emollient Prescribing Guidance for Adults and Children
Cosopt	Dorzolamide/Timolol		
Crestor or Rosuvastatin capsules	Rosuvastatin tablets		
Doublebase gel	Epimax Isomol gel		BSW Emollient Prescribing Guidance for Adults and Children
Durogesic or fentanyl patch	Mezolar Matrix (or Matrifen)		
Vagifem	Estradiol 10microgram vaginal tablets		
Estriol 0.01% vaginal cream with applicator	Estriol 1mg/g vaginal cream with applicator	Estriol 1mg/g delivers the same dose per applicator in a smaller volume	
Ethosuximide 250mg/5ml oral solution	Emeside syrup		
Exelon or rivastigmine patch	Alzest		
Flexitol Heel Balm (this is twice daily application)	Dermatonics Once Heel Balm	Diabetic foot	
Felodipine	Delofine	Non formulary; existing patients only.	
Femodene or Katya or Akizza (Ethinylestradiol 30mcg / gestodene 75 mcg)	Millinette 30microgram/75microgram tablets		
Femodette or Sunya or Akizza (Ethinylestradiol 20mcg / gestodene 75 mcg)	Millinette 20microgram/75microgram tablets		

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Forceval	Valupak Multivitamin and Mineral One a Day (Dialysis and Bariatric and Gastric surgery patients are exempted from this switch)	Ensure you pick the correct Valupak product	
Fortisip bottle	Altraplen Energy		BSW Oral Nutrition Supplements (ONS) Formulary
Ensure Plus Milkshake Style	Altraplen Energy		BSW Oral Nutrition Supplements (ONS) Formulary
Fresubin Energy	Altraplen Energy		BSW Oral Nutrition Supplements (ONS) Formulary
Ensure Plus Juce	Aymes Actagain Juce	Juice style supplements are not suitable for people with diabetes – can flag to original prescriber or alternatively prescribing support dietitians bswibc.prescribingsupportdietitians@nhs.net	BSW Oral Nutrition Supplements (ONS) Formulary
Fresubin Jucy	Aymes Actagain Juce	Juice style supplements are not suitable for people with diabetes – can flag to original prescriber or alternatively prescribing support dietitians bswibc.prescribingsupportdietitians@nhs.net	BSW Oral Nutrition Supplements (ONS) Formulary
Galantamine	Galzemic (or Gazylen brand if Galzemic brand not available). *Medicines supply notification 11/04/2025 - avoid switching for savings until stocks stabilise*		
Glycopyrronium tablets	Assicco		
Hypromellose Eye drops 0.3% (Artelac 0.32% eye drops/Hypromellose 0.32% eye drops/Ocufresh 0.3% eye drops/Lumicare hypromellose 0.3% eye drops)	Aapromel (non PF) eye drops 0.3%	Avoid switching if a very severe case of dry eyes	BSW Dry Eye Guidance
Ibugel 10% or ibuprofen gel, Voltarol gel, Feldene gel	Fenbid 5% gel	10% Ibuprofen gel is non formulary and should not be prescribed. Suggest purchased OTC (or prescribe 5% gel if patient declines and prescriber feels there is clinical need)	
Isosorbide mononitrate 60mg MR tab	Monomil XL		
Lipitor	Atorvastatin		
Losec or Nexium	Omeprazole or Esomeprazole		
Marvelon or Gedarel (Ethinylestradiol 30mcg / desogestrel 150mcg)	Cimizt		
Mercilon or Gedarel (Ethinylestradiol 20mcg / desogestrel 150mcg)	Bimizza		

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Metformin oral solution sugar free	Metformin 500mg oral powder sachets sugar free	Use a licensed oral solution for enteral feeding tubes - check individual SmPC. Avoid switching in fluid restricted patients.	
Metformin 1g tablets	2x Metformin 500mg tablets		
Microgynon or Elinor or Ambelina or Ovranelle (Ethinylestradiol 30mcg / levonorgestrel 150mcg)	Rigevidon		
Mirapexin (all strengths) or Pramipexole MR (1.57mg, 2.1mg, 2.62mg, 3.15mg)	Pipexus MR		
Movelat	Purchase OTC (or swap to Fenbid (ibuprofen) if appropriate)	Advise purchase topical rubefacients OTC	
Macrogol 3350 (Transisoft) or Movicol Adult	Laxido Orange, Cosmocool or generic Macrogol	Transisoft is non-formulary - This preparation contains no electrolytes and is significantly more expensive (£217.17/28 sachets) than formulary choice generic macrogol compound products in Primary Care.	
Movicol Paediatric	Cosmocool (if orange, lemon, lime flavours), Laxido (if plain),		
Omeprazole tablets	Omeprazole capsules		
Oxycodone IR	Shortec		
Oxycodone MR	Longtec		
Premium price generics (These appear on system as drug, strength (Manufacturer))	Plain generic		Use Open Prescribing for PPGs not on search
Requip or ropinirole MR (2mg, 4mg and 8mg only)	Ipinnia XL		
Rizatriptan 10mg tablets	Rizatriptan 10mg orodispersible tablets		Primary Care Migraine Treatment Pathway for Adults
Seroquel XL or any brand of quetiapine MR	Brancico XL (line: Zaluron XL If Brancico not tolerated). *Medicine supply notification 10/02/25 - avoid switching for savings until stocks stabilise*		
Simple eye ointment	Hylo-Night		-
Sodium Chloride 5% eye drops	Sodieye PF 5% eye drops		-
Sodium Chloride 0.9% nasal drops	Purchase OTC. <u>If</u> prescribed, please prescribe as Orbis brand	Should be OTC in first instance. Otherwise prescribe as Orbis brand	-
Sodium cromoglicate eye drops	Stop or purchase OTC	Advise purchase sodium cromoglicate eye drops for rhinitis/allergies	

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Sodium hyaluronate 0.1% PF (Hilo Tear 0.1% PF/Ocu-lube HA 0.1% PF/Xailin tears HA 0.1% PF/Viscotears HA 0.1% PF/Eyeaze 0.1% PF/Hy-Opti 0.1% PF/Clinoptic HA 0.1% PF)	Viscotears HA 0.1% PF	Avoid switching if a very severe case of dry eyes. Please contact bswicb.prescribing@nhs.net for support with calculating this saving.	BSW Dry Eye Guidance
Sodium hyaluronate 0.2% PF (Clinitas 0.2% eye drops 0.5ml unit dose PF/Clinitas multi 0.2% PF/Evolve HA 0.2% PF/Hilo-Forte 0.2% PF/Ocu-lube HA 0.2% PF/Xailin HA 0.2%/Xailin plus HA 0.2% PF/Hydramed 0.2% PF)	Aactive HA PF 0.2%	Avoid switching if a very severe case of dry eyes	BSW Dry Eye Guidance
Sodium hyaluronate 0.4% PF (Clinitas 0.4% eye drops 0.5ml unit dose PF/Clinitas multi 0.4% PF/Hydramed forte 0.4% PF/Hydramed forte 0.4% eye drops 0.5ml unit dose/EyezXL 0.4% PF/Sodium Hyaluronate 0.4% eye drops PF)	Eyeaze 0.4% eye drops PF	Avoid switching if a very severe case of dry eyes	BSW Dry Eye Guidance
Stalevo	Sastravi		
Sukarto SR 500mg, 1000mg	Metformin MR 500mg, 1g	NB Sukarto SR 750mg remains more cost effective than metformin MR 750mg	
Tolterodine XL 2mg, 4mg	Tolthen XL 2mg, 4mg		
Unifine, Clickfine	GlucRx fine point or BD Viva	Use insulin pen needles <£6/box	
Utrogestan 100mg capsules	Progesterone micronised 100mg capsules	For licensed routes of administration (i.e. orally administered)	BSW HRT Formulary Treatment Options
Venlafaxine MR caps & tabs (37.5mg, 225mg), Venlafaxine MR caps (150mg)	Vencarm XL		
Vesicare	Solifenacin		
Viagra	Sildenafil		
Xalacom	Latanoprost & Timolol		
Xalatan	Latanoprost		
Yasmin or Lucette or Ellanite (Ethinylestradiol 30 mcg / drospirenone 3 mg)	Yacella		
Zolmitriptan tablets	Zolmitriptan orodispersible tablets		Primary Care Migraine Treatment Pathway for Adults
Zyprexa velotab or Olanzapine oral lyophilisates	Olanzapine tablets (or use orodispersible s/f)		
Pharmacist switches/ input then technician to switch			
Alendronic acid 70mg effervescent tablets	Alendronic acid 70mg tablets	Effervescent tablets should be reserved for patients with swallowing difficulties	

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Alendronic acid 70mg/100ml oral solution SF	Alendronic acid 70mg effervescent tablets	Effervescent tablets are more cost effective than the oral solu tuon	
Aviva, FreeStyle Optium, OneTouch, Compact, Active	T2: True Metrix, T1: As per specialist, but Glucomen Areo 2k meter is recommended. (Aviva and Freestyle Optium may be required by very complex T1 patients)	Use glucose test strips <£7.50/pack of 50	Blood Glucose Monitoring in Diabetes
Clobazam oral solution (all strengths) and oral suspension (all strengths except 10mg/5ml)	Clobazam 10mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free	Category 2 antiepileptic. Generic 10mg/5ml strength preferred and most cost-effective.	Antiepileptic drugs: updated advice on switching between different manufacturers' products - GOV.UK
Fesoterodine / Darifenacin	Deprescribe or Solifenacin	Non-formulary Antimuscarinic	OAB guidance
Fostair (Beclometasone/Formoterol) 100mcg/6mcg and 200mcg/6mcg dose inhaler	Luforbec (Beclometasone/Formoterol) 100mcg/6mcg and 200mcg/6mcg dose inhaler	Luforbec is pMDI ICS/LABA brand of choice in BSW; more cost effective vs Fostair. NB 200mcg strength only licensed for asthma not COPD	-
Gabapentin 1 x 800mg tablet	Replace with 2 x Gabapentin 400mg capsules		-
Glucose test strips: Stop if unnecessary (not on insulin, or sulphonylureas)	STOP		Blood Glucose Monitoring in Diabetes
Imigran	Sumatriptan		-
Keppra	Levetiracetam	Category 3 antiepileptic	Antiepileptic drugs: updated advice on switching between different manufacturers' products - GOV.UK
Lamictal tablets	Lamotrigine	Category 2 antiepileptic	Antiepileptic drugs: updated advice on switching between different manufacturers' products - GOV.UK
Liothyronine tablets (5mcg and 10mcg)	Liothyronine Capsules		
Melatonin (immediate release) 3mg capsules	Adaflex (immediate release) 3mg tablets		
Naproxen GR, effervescent, suspension	Naproxen standard	Avoid GR and liquid versions unless necessary	
Relvar 92 & Incruse	Trelegy	Switch to single inhaler. Higher strength Relvar not on searches as indicated for asthma not COPD. Consider carefully whether patient truly needs triple therapy or LABA/LAMA	BSW COPD Guidance (Nov 2021)
Riluzole tablets	Riluzole orodispersible film		-

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Sertraline 28 x 25mg tablets	Replace with Sertraline 14 x 50mg tablets	Replace sertraline 25mg tablets with 25mg dose achieved by taking half a 50mg tablet or a 50mg tablet taken on alternate days. Sertraline 25mg are not in the Drug tariff and not included on BSW Formulary. The only indications for this strength is the initial 7 days dose titration in adults for panic disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder and social anxiety disorder and in children for obsessive compulsive disorder.	
Tiotropium 18mcg or Spiriva DPI (not Respimat)	Braltus	Switch as per COPD guidance	
Unexpectedly expensive items	Run search to see if any of these items are being prescribed. For example: amitriptyline 10mg/5ml, but 25mg/5ml and 50mg / 5ml are a lot more cost-effective		
Vitamin B compound (standard & strong)	Deprescribe	Change in guidance, Vit B compound no longer recommended for alcoholism. N.B. Please ensure there is an adequate thiamine daily dose of 200mg to 300mg	

Prescriber switches only

Cialis OD (2.5mg or 5mg)	Sildenafil or Tadalafil (once a week or on demand PRN)		
Ciprofibrate	After review switch to a more cost effective fibrate or another alternative treatment	Ciprofibrate is non formulary	
Co-Proxamol	Paracetamol +/- weak opioid	STOP prescribing	
Dicycloverine (any dose and formulation)	Mebeverine, Hyoscine, Alverine, Mintec	Avoid prescribing - poor NHS value	
Dosulepin	Alternative antidepressant (SAFETY ISSUE)	Low Value Medicine	
DuoResp Spiromax inhaler	Wockair (asthma) or Fobumix Easyhaler (asthma/COPD)	Symbicort Turbohaler is a formulary option in asthma, but more costly. Different devices so consider switch during respiratory review.	BSW Asthma Guidance for Adults and Young People over 16 years Asthma Guidance for Children and Young People (CYP) in BaNES, Swindon and Wiltshire (BSW)
Lidocaine patches	Deprescribe (see formulary for indications)	Low Value Medicine	

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Primidone 50mg tablets	Enodama	Non-epilepsy indications only (essential tremor). Category 1 antiepileptic.	Antiepileptic drugs: updated advice on switching between different manufacturers' products - GOV.UK
Qvar 50 &100 (Note: NOT the Autohaler or Easi-breathe)	Beclometasone/formoterol inhaler (MART/AIR in asthma). If stable, consider cost effective switch to Kelhale 50 & 100 (Same device, has a dose counter)	Review management in line with BTS/NICE/SIGN asthma guidance (especially where symptomatic). Utilise S1 clinical search and BSW inhaler output to prioritise patients for respiratory review by practice.	BSW Asthma Guidance for Adults and Young People over 16 years Asthma Guidance for Children and Young People (CYP) in BaNES, Swindon and Wiltshire (BSW)
Seretide Evohaler or Accuhaler	Beclometasone/formoterol inhaler. If stable, consider cost effective switch from Evohaler to equivalent AirFlusal (asthma only)	All fluticasone/salmeterol are non-formulary for adults – do NOT start new patients. Review management in line with BTS/NICE/SIGN asthma guidance (especially where symptomatic), consider triple combination inhaler for COPD patients on Seretide 500 Accuhaler. Utilise S1 clinical search and BSW inhaler output to prioritise patients for respiratory review by practice.	BSW Asthma Guidance for Adults and Young People over 16 years Asthma Guidance for Children and Young People (CYP) in BaNES, Swindon and Wiltshire (BSW)
Targinact (oxycodone & naloxone)	Opioid & separate laxative	Avoid prescribing combination - Low Value Medicine	
Trimipramine	Alternative antidepressant	Low Value Medicine	

A set of BSW cost saving clinical searches can be located in SystmOne here: [Reporting> Clinical Reporting> BSW General Practice> Medicine Optimisation Team> Cost Savings](#)