



To contact NHS BSW CCG Medicines Optimisation Team:

✉ bswccg.prescribing@nhs.net

Website: <https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/>

Free access codes for PrescQIPP Elearning Courses

As from March 2022 Health Education England no longer funds free access to the PrescQIPP GP **Practice Medicines Co-ordinators** eLearning Course.

BSW CCG has therefore decided to purchase **50 licences**.

This course serves as an introduction to medicines and the repeat prescribing processes within a GP practice setting, and is suitable for general members of the practice team undertaking medicines related tasks. Modules include: medication basics, information sources and requirements for prescriptions, repeat prescribing policies and processes, reducing waste, care homes and appliance contractors, hospital discharge, formularies, specials and prescribing incentive schemes, community pharmacy services and an introduction to diabetes, respiratory prescribing and antibiotics. Details of the course and free access code can be found here [PrescQIPP PMC e-learning flyer.pdf](#)

BSW CCG has also purchased **100 licences** for the **Anticoagulation - Stroke prevention in atrial fibrillation** e Learning course

This CPD accredited e-learning course is based on the NICE Clinical Guideline 196: Management of Atrial Fibrillation. It is designed for PCN and practice pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, GPs, nurse prescribers, medicines optimisation teams and community pharmacists. Modules include NICE guideline 196: assessing stroke and bleeding risk, Anticoagulant treatment options and choice of anticoagulant. Details of the course and free access code can be found here - [PrescQIPP Anticoagulation e-learning flyer.pdf](#)

Access to the PrescQIPP e learning platform can be found here - [PrescQIPP e-learning | PrescQIPP C.I.C](#)

Please contact bswccg.prescribing@nhs.net if you have any further questions

Updated NICE Diabetes Guidance for Glucose Monitoring

“On Thursday 31st March 2022, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) updated the recommendations in their Diabetes guidance in relation to glucose monitoring.

[BSW CCG](#) are aware of this updated guidance and people with diabetes should be assured that we are working closely with local Diabetes Specialist colleagues and other local stakeholders in relation to the implementation of this updated guidance, with the aim to maximise benefits, prioritise people with Diabetes with the greatest clinical need, and allow all people with diabetes access to the best possible treatment for their clinical circumstances. We would politely ask our people with diabetes to please bear with us whilst we complete this process.

Further information will be released when available in due course.”

The updated guidance relates to continuous glucose monitoring which is usually managed via the local Specialist Diabetes service:

- Type 1 diabetes in Adults - <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng17/chapter/Recommendations#continuous-glucose-monitoring>
- Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes in Children and Young People – <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng18/chapter/Recommendations#continuous-glucose-monitoring>
- Type 2 Diabetes in Adults - <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng28/chapter/Recommendations#continuous-glucose-monitoring>

Webinars to reduce cardiovascular risk

The West of England Academic Health Science Network are running a number of free webinars to support Practice Teams in reducing cardiovascular risk for their patients. This includes a 60-minute online education session for practice nurses on management of patients at risk of CVD as well as lunchtime sessions on Inclisiran and General Lipid Management for Primary Care. These sessions are available to all Primary Care HCPs. To see details of these sessions and to book please go to <https://www.weahsn.net/news-views/events/>

We have been advised that following the recent disruption, normal supply of Trulicity 3.0mg and 4.5mg doses has now been restored. Please ensure that if you had stepped down doses temporarily, that this is now reviewed.

BSW Area Prescribing Committee (APC) Updates

The [BSW APC website](#) includes info on the APC and BSW formulary decision making process. Decisions from the Feb 2022 meeting have been ratified and can be found in full [here](#). Of particular note:

- [Co-enzyme Q10 \(ubidecarenone/ubiquinone\)](#) 30mg and 100mg oral capsules added to formulary with **AMBER SCA** TLS **only** for use in the (off-label) treatment of mitochondrial disorders in children. Use for this indication may then continue lifelong. SCA for this indication [here](#). Note that all other indications (e.g. managing statin-induced muscle symptoms) are **non-formulary** due to insufficient evidence. Unless used for diagnosed mitochondrial disorder, Co-Q10 supplements should be self-purchased OTC. SPS has some information [here](#).
- Diprobace® ointment and Diprobace® cream removed from formulary; ointment is discontinued and cream has been reformulated. Existing patients can be switched to alternative formulary product see [here](#) or directed to self-purchase.
- As part of ongoing work to build the ‘devices’ chapter of our formulary, we have included information on approved indications for the restricted prescribing of waterproof protectors e.g. Limbo/SealTight on FP10 [here](#). These protectors are available OTC and online; in most instances, patients should be directed to self-purchase.

Ukrainian medicines resources

The following resources have been put together to help primary care professionals to meet the health needs of patients from Ukraine.

[Ukrainian medicines resources | Medicines Learning Portal](#)
[Arrivals from Ukraine: advice for primary care](#)

Requests to convert Private Prescriptions to NHS FP10s

We routinely see enquiries from practices via bswccg.prescribing@nhs.net asking for advice on taking on prescribing from a Private Specialist (e.g. Mental Health Specialist).

Our Medicines Optimisation website has a newly added PrescQIPP document, which has been adopted by BSW CCG, giving guidance and advice on private treatments, which may be of help to the clinician in making their decision. It can be read in full here:- [Private Treatments](#). The pertinent information is if the medication is **normally funded** on an NHS prescription in primary care, i.e. on Formulary, for the condition **then it can be prescribed on NHS**. The excerpt below provides advice on when the request should be denied and the Private specialist will need to prescribe.

Do not routinely issue a NHS prescription following a private consultation if the medicine is:

- » Not included in the local NHS pathway
- » Not included in the local drug formulary
- » Only suitable for specialist/specialised prescribing
- » Included further down the NHS treatment pathway after other alternatives which the patient is suitable for but has not tried

Wessex LMC has this information which mirrors our guidance, and also contains a patient letter template which can be adapted for use - [Wessex LMCs: Requests to convert private prescriptions to NHS FP10](#)

If the criteria for taking on prescribing on the NHS is met and the relevant drug is **Amber Shared Care** on Formulary the MO team would encourage the clinician to request that the private specialist provide advice and support as per [BSW Shared Care agreements](#). We would also advocate that the patient be referred to the relevant NHS provider and the patient be encouraged not to remove themselves from the private care until such times as the NHS provider can take over otherwise you may find yourselves prescribing a drug without any specialist to resort to if problems arise.

Discontinuation of TrueYou test strips

TrueYou test strips are being discontinued shortly. Please can you identify people receiving prescriptions for these strips and, if ongoing blood glucose monitoring is appropriate, please switch to a formulary approved meter. TrueMetrix Air is the DSN preferred option for meter replacement and practices can obtain supplies from Steve Llewellyn, Trividia Healthcare Partnership Manager, tel: 07810 084661 email: sllewellyn@trividiahealth.co.uk

If you require support in identifying affected patients or help with swapping to a cost-effective meter, please contact amanda.scutt@nhs.net [Diabetes Specialist Pharmacist].

BSW Meds Op Website **New documents uploaded**

Care Homes (MOCH) page:-

MOCH Medication Fridge Monitoring Form
<https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=9349>

Training and Education page:-

Presentation - Polypharmacy and Deprescribing
<https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=9363>

Patient Group Directions (PGDs) page:-

Emergency contraception – Morning After Pill (Ulipristal)
<https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=9368>

Supply of Doxycycline PGD for treatment of uncomplicated Chlamydia trachomatis
<https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=9370>

Supply of Azithromycin PGD for treatment of uncomplicated Chlamydia trachomatis
<https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=9372>

Prescribing (Practical Resources) page:-

Emergency Access To Medicines Scheme - list of medications
<https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=9382>

BSW Meds Op Website **Updated documents**

Patient Group Directions (PGDs) page:-

Emergency Contraception – Morning After Pill (Levonorgestrel)
<https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=6149>

Prescribing (Practical Resources) page:-

Emergency Access To Medicines Scheme information – participating pharmacies
<https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=5450>

Testosterone Testogel® Availability

The manufacturers of [Testogel](#) have discontinued Testogel 50mg sachet preparation and relaunched it in a different 40.5mg strength. This may lead to confusion and potential prescribing errors where used for its licensed indication (males) and also where used (unlicensed) in females. The table below aims to summarise the various forms of topical testosterone marketed in the UK. We are working on including this information into the existing BSW Shared Care Agreements (males and females).

Product	Strength	Presentation	DT price (Mar ,22)	Notes
Testim gel SPC	50mg/5g gel	Box containing 30 x single dose tubes. Each tube holds 5g gel containing 50mg testosterone	£30.50 per 30 single dose tubes.	In stock currently at AAH and Alliance
Testogel gel SPC	16.2mg/g gel	88g pump (60 doses) One pump delivers 1.25g of gel containing 20.25mg testosterone	£31.11 for 88g pump	Out of stock March 2022
Testogel gel sachet SPC	40.5mg	Box containing 30 sachets. Each sachet holds 2.5g gel containing 40.5mg testosterone	£31.11 per 30 sachets	Newly launched strength March 2022
Testogel gel sachet SPC	50mg	Box containing 30 x single dose sachets. Each sachet holds 5g gel containing 50mg testosterone	£31.11 per 30 sachets	To be discontinued end of March 22. Stocks likely exhausted end of May 2022.
Testavan gel SPC	20mg/g gel	85.5g pump contains 56 metered doses. One pump delivers 1.15g (1.25mL) of gel containing 23mg of testosterone	£25.22 for 85.5g pump	In stock currently at AAH and Alliance
Tostran 2% gel SPC	20mg/g gel	Canister containing 60g of gel. One press of canister piston delivers 0.5g of gel containing 10mg testosterone.	£28.63 for 60g canister	In stock currently at AAH and Alliance