

BSW Formulary Update – April 2022

New and Updated Shared Care Agreements and Prescribing Guidance

- **Updated – [BSW Guidelines for the use of Melatonin in Children](#)**
Guidelines now include [Adaflex brand](#) of 1mg, 2mg, 3mg, 4mg, 5mg immediate-release tabs as a first line option alongside existing generic melatonin 2mg modified-release tabs.
- **Updated – [BSW Biologic Treatment Pathway for Migraine Prevention in Adults](#)**
Includes [NICE TA764](#); updated national funding/access decision for fremanezumab
- **New – [Safe Prescribing Guide: Alfentanil via SC Route in Palliative and EoL Patients in the Community](#)** New guidance to support the safe prescribing of alfentanil in the community for palliative care indications. Also see update below.

Other BSWformulary website updates

- **[Alfentanil 500micrograms/ml strength injection](#)** has been aligned with **amber** TLS; GPs may be asked to prescribe alfentanil as part of palliative care in the community setting. Prescribing in the community should only be undertaken on Specialist recommendation with clear instructions on dose as detailed in Safe Prescribing Guide (see above).
Alfentanil is a potent opioid increasingly being used in syringe pumps in local hospice settings. Alfentanil is a Schedule 2 controlled drug available in several presentations, most notably as alfentanil 500micrograms/1ml solution for injection ampoules and the high strength alfentanil 5mg/1ml solution for injection ampoules.
Note the **high strength alfentanil preparation is TEN times stronger and is only included on formulary for anaesthetic indications within acute trusts (red TLS)**.
- **Latanoprost 50micrograms/Timolol 5mg/ml (Fixapost®) and Timolol 0.1% ophthalmic gel (Tiopep®)** aligned for use across BSW where PF formulation is required. **green** TLS.
- **[Fidaxomicin granules for oral suspension 40mg/ml](#)** – added with **green** TLS in addition to 400mg tablets. Fidaxomicin is expensive (£1350 per treatment course) and may not be routinely stocked. We recommend prescriber contacts community pharmacy before issuing prescription to establish how quickly it can be supplied.
- **[Forceval Junior soluble tablets](#)** – added to paediatric chapter for use as per paediatric care plans for children ≤14 years who either cannot swallow or have an NG in place.

What the BSW CCG formulary team are currently working on

- BSW type 2 diabetes guidance and insulin formulary.
- Working with the BSWCCG Medicines Optimisation Team to review Optimise Profiles in line with BSWformulary. *Please contact bswccg.prescribing@nhs.net in the first instance to clarify TLS status if you have prescribing queries.*
- Reviewing drugs currently assigned AMBER TLS on BSWformulary.

- Updating [local guidance on SGLT2s in heart failure](#) to incorporate information on empagliflozin in line with its recent NICE technology appraisal.
- Producing a BSW decision aid to support switching patients to edoxaban from other DOACs, in line with NHSE Investment and Impact Fund (IIF) indicator.

The BSW joint formulary remains under construction and is designed to be an evolving, dynamic resource. We are working to ensure the messages on GP prescribing systems are in line with the joint formulary. If you discover information you believe to be inaccurate or misleading, or for further information, email bswccg.formulary@nhs.net