

**To contact NHS BSW ICB Medicines Optimisation Team**:

🖂bswicb.prescribing@nhs.net

**Website**: [https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk](https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk)/

**Medicines Optimisation Update Issue June/July 22**

**The new BSW together website**

The new BSW together website (reflecting the BSW Integrated Care System) is under construction and now features live pages for Medicines Optimisation and the Area Prescribing Committee (APC). We suggest saving this webpage to your browser: <https://bswtogether.org.uk/medicines/>   
The existing BSWCCG Meds Optimisation and APC websites remain available at <https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/> with redirects in place during the ongoing transfer period.  Accessing the BSWformulary via <http://bswformulary.nhs.uk/> will remain the same.

**Medicines Optimisation Update**

**Understand and Compare Opioid Prescribing for your Practice/Primary Care Network**

 The NHS Business Services Authority (BSA) have launched a brand-new ePACT2 Opioid Prescribing Comparators Dashboard. To ensure it suits your needs, the dashboard has been developed in collaboration with colleagues in primary care, Wessex AHSN and the NHSBSA. It includes comparative data which is not available via other data sources or clinical system searches and is very up to date because live electronic prescribing system (EPS) data is

used to update the dashboard every 14 days.

 Learn more by watching this educational webinar - [Opioid Prescribing Comparator Webinar](https://vimeo.com/722549654/c5b9af4c0a) .

Hosts Wessex AHSN and NHSBSA give a live demonstration of the dashboard. Which aims to help you understand your prescribing data and identify patients most at risk of harm from opioid prescribing, including:

* Taking regular opioids for; 3 months, 6 months and over
* Opioids in combination with other medicines known to increase the risk of harm
* High dose opioids – oral morphine equivalent (OME) ≥120mg daily
* Ordering high volumes of liquid morphine sulphate
* Highlight variation and benchmark your organisation’s prescribing data (National, CCG, PCN or GP Practice)

The dashboard will be useful for your QOF QI Module on Prescription Drug Dependency ([https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/B1333\_Update-on-Quality-Outcomes-Framework-changes-for-2022-23\_310322.pdf see page 90](https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/B1333_Update-on-Quality-Outcomes-Framework-changes-for-2022-23_310322.pdf%20see%20page%2090)). Those working in GP Practices - please share this with others in your practice who may be interested e.g., Pain Champion, QI Lead.  Not registered with ePACT2? Email [registration@nhsbsa.nhs.uk](mailto:registration@nhsbsa.nhs.uk) requesting access to ePACT2 dashboards. For training and support email [ePACT2support@nhsbsa.nhs.uk](mailto:ePACT2support@nhsbsa.nhs.uk). Full guidance on registering for ePACT2 [here](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/access-our-data-products/epact2/registering-epact2). Please get in touch [bswccg.prescribing@nhs.net](mailto:bswccg.prescribing@nhs.net) if you need more information or support.

**BSW Area Prescribing Committee (APC) Updates**

The [BSW APC website](https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/apc) includes info on the APC and BSW formulary decision making process. Decisions from March and April 2022 meetings have been ratified and can be found in full [here.](https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/apc-recent-decisions) Of particular note:

* [Phenazone/lidocaine hydrochloride 40mg/10mg/g (Otigo®) eardrops](http://bswformulary.nhs.uk/chaptersSubDetails.asp?FormularyID=5790&FormularySectionID=12&SubSectionRef=12.01.02&SubSectionID=A100#5790) added with GREEN TLS for use in line with [NG91](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng91) and [BSW Management of Infection Guidance for Primary Care](https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=87) – Use in acute otitis media only if an immediate oral antibiotic prescription is not given, and there is no eardrum perforation or otorrhoea.
* [BSW Guidelines for the use of Melatonin in Children](https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=8535)  
  Guidelines now include [Adaflex brand](https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/search?q=adaflex" \t "_blank) of 1mg, 2mg, 3mg, 4mg, 5mg immediate-release tabs as a first line option alongside existing generic melatonin 2mg modified-release tabs.
* [Alfentanil 500micrograms/ml strength injection](http://bswformulary.nhs.uk/chaptersSubDetails.asp?FormularySectionID=21&SubSectionRef=21.02.01&SubSectionID=A100&drugmatch=5786#5786) has been aligned with amber TLS; GPs may be asked to prescribe alfentanil as part of palliative care in the community setting. Alfentanil is a potent opioid available in several presentations. Prescribing in the community should only be undertaken in line with BSW guidance:  [Safe Prescribing Guide: Alfentanil via SC Route in Palliative and EoL Patients in the Community](https://bswpartnership.nhs.uk/medicines/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2022/05/Alfentanil-prescribing-guideline-final-v1.0.pdf)

**Barrier Preparations**

We are currently experiencing shortages or supply issues with most barrier preparations. Our recommendation is prescribers should follow advice given by Tissue Viability Nurses or to prescribe the alternatives that the community teams are requesting. This should apply until further notice.

**Proshield Plus Skin Protective and Proshield Foam and Spray Incontinence Cleanser,** both Proshield products are included in the formulary and are **‘Amber’**. This means that they are suitable for GP prescribing following specialist initiation or recommendation. Please note that they are not listed on the [BSW MOCH Barrier Cream Guidance](https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=5507) but included in the formulary due to differences in existing treatment pathways (prior to merger of BSWCCGs) that have yet to be aligned. Proshield products are to be used as a short course (usually up to two weeks) to treat Moisture Associated/ Incontinence associated Skin Damage (MASD/IAD) and the patient then stepped back to maintenance barrier preparation once skin healed. If no improvement after two weeks, the Tissue Viability Team should be involved in the patient’s care and reviews. Therefore not to be added to repeat prescription, but issued as acute instead with regular reviews.

**PCN/Practice Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians**

In order for us to update our current contact list please let us know if you have recently joined a practice (or moved from one BSW practice to another) and have not supplied us with your details or alerted us of the change. Please email [bswccg.prescribing@nhs.net](mailto:bswccg.prescribing@nhs.net)  with your name, designated title and Practice /PCN – please provide the name of your old BSW practice if you have recently moved. This will ensure you receive all comms and any enquiries sent from us will not go to the wrong practice (if you have recently moved).

**Obtaining Vancomycin capsules for C.difficile in the community**

After a couple of C.diff cases around Salisbury where treatment has been delayed due to challenges obtaining vancomycin capsules in the community, we have a solution.  Vancomycin capsules will now be held as stock at the Tesco pharmacy in the following store:

Tesco Extra

Bourne Centre

Southampton Road

Salisbury

SP1 2NY

The Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust (SFT) pharmacy team will be supporting the Tesco pharmacy with this service in South Wiltshire if necessary, and microbiologists will be informing GPs of this stock when making prescribing recommendations.

**Answering questions about medicines – where to access Medicines Optimisation resources**

This NEW  information  - [Answering questions about Medicines – a list of useful resources](https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=9449) can be found on the Medicines Optimisation website  [here .](https://bswtogether.org.uk/medicines/medicines-optimisation-team/)

It has been designed to inform clinicians of various reputable resources that can be accessed to answer queries related to medicines. It is not an exhaustive list this is a brief overview of some of the key resources to show you the range of information available to you. Top tip - always check 2 resources!

It will need to be enlarged to view as is quite a large spreadsheet – please note some information is only available to ICB colleagues and is password protected. For example, NEWT guidelines – if interested PCNs can purchase a subscription, details here-  [NEWT Guidelines - Subscription Details](https://www.newtguidelines.com/Subscription.html)

It is not intended to replace the service we provide ; answering or signposting any queries sent to [bswccg.prescribing@nhs.net](mailto:bswccg.prescribing@nhs.net) but hopefully it will be valuable and enlightening for some.

**Metformin and Reduced Vitamin B12 levels**

Decreased vitamin B12 levels, or vitamin B12 deficiency, is now considered to be a common side effect in patients on metformin treatment, especially in those receiving a higher dose or longer treatment duration and in those with existing risk factors. The June MHRA Drug Safety Update advises checking vitamin B12 serum levels in patients being treated with metformin who have symptoms suggestive of vitamin B12 deficiency. Periodic monitoring is also advised to be considered for patients with risk factors for vitamin B12 deficiency. For the full detail see [MHRA-June-2022-DSU](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1084085/June-2022-DSU-PDF.pdf)

**Reminder to Liase with Specialist Epilepsy Teams – Oromucosal Midazolam Prefilled Syringes**

If supply issues mean there is a need to change the brand of oromucosal midazolam prescribed, please remember to liaise with the specialist team overseeing the patient’s epilepsy treatment. This will ensure the specialist team are able to give appropriate advice to you, care staff and the patient, and update Care Plans accordingly. Recent supply issues with Epistatus (Prefilled Syringes - oromucosal midazolam maleate solution) have meant that some patients prescriptions have been changed by their GP Practice to Buccolam (Prefilled Syringes - oromucosal midazolam hydrochloride solution) because it is more readily available. Most people prescribed oromucosal midazolam for emergency treatment of epilepsy require a written Care Plan for emergency medicines which is used by staff within care settings the patient attends. This Care Plan is usually written by the specialist service overseeing the patient’s care and will usually need to be updated when there are any changes to medicines. Oromucosal midazolam is formulary traffic light amber shared care [http://bswformulary.nhs.uk/OromucosalMidazolam](http://bswformulary.nhs.uk/chaptersSubDetails.asp?FormularySectionID=4&SubSectionRef=04.08.02&SubSectionID=A100&drugmatch=5765#5765). Buccolam and Epistatus are not interchangeable and should be prescribed by brand name. Buccolam is a different salt, strength and volume. There may be a risk of error if patients are changed without clear communication between prescriber, specialist team and patients/carers.

Please contact us [bswccg.prescribing@nhs.net](mailto:bswccg.prescribing@nhs.net)  if you have any questions or need assistance with contact details for Epilepsy Specialist nurses within your locality.

**Eclipse Live is Coming to BaNES and Wiltshire**

Eclipse Live is a suite of RADAR safety alerts that runs alongside your clinical system and is designed to improve health outcomes and patient safety. Eclipse Live highlights patients at potential risk of harm or admission from their prescribed medication and stratifies this risk in blue, amber or red, allowing you to prioritise those who are at the highest risk of harm.

Eclipse can also:

•Reduce medicines related preventable events, that result in hospital A&E attendance and non-elective admissions

•Reduce costs associated with the number of preventable events

•Support medicines optimisation & SMRs

•Enhance Quality and Outcomes Framework performance

The system has been in Swindon practices for over 5 years and from July 22 the contract will include Wiltshire and BaNES, with new and improved automatic extractions from SystmOne. This year’s incentive scheme includes payments for getting up and running with Eclipse and reviewing 80% of specified alerts (found in Eclipse Live under CCG alerts). BaNES & Wiltshire Practice Managers will soon receive an email regarding the sign-up process and the data sharing agreements that are needed for this system. We will also be running ‘Eclipse Overview’ drop-in sessions for practice staff to gain an understanding of the system; for details please email [bswicb.prescribing@nhs.net](mailto:bswicb.prescribing@nhs.net). Training sessions will be running from September onwards, however if you are keen to go ahead before then please email us.

**Prescribe Well Spend Less**

The Prescribe Well Spend Less’ document has been revamped and is now listed alphabetically and grouped by switch type. It is regularly updated, and links can be found on both the BSW Formulary (<http://bswformulary.nhs.uk/>) and the BSW Website (<https://bswtogether.org.uk/medicines/medicines-optimisation-team/practical-guidance-and-clinical-resources/>).