

To contact NHS BSW ICB Medicines Optimisation Team:

✉ bswibc.prescribing@nhs.net

Website: <https://bswtogether.org.uk/medicines/>

BSW Area Prescribing Committee (APC) Updates

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

- **Updated** - [Investigation, treatment and review of Vitamin B12 \(cobalamin\) deficiency](#) with revised haematological references ranges for samples processed at SFT.
- **New** - BSW ICB Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) policy <https://bsw.icb.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2022/12/BSW-ICB-CP052-CGM-Diabetes-Wearable-Technology-for-Adults-Children-living-with-Type-1-Diabetes-1.pdf>
- **New** - Summary of the different types of CGM that primary care may be asked to prescribe on FP10 [Summary of Intermittent \(isCGM\) and Real-time \(rtCGM\) Continuous Glucose Monitoring Systems available on FP10](#)

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Cost savings - Drug Switch of the Month – Sulfasalazine Tablets to Salazopyrin

££££££££

Drug	Cost	Quantity	Switched To	Cost	Quantity	Saving
Sulfasalazine 500mg tablets	£58.10	112	Salazopyrin 500mg tablets	£6.97	112	£51.53
Sulfasalazine 500mg tablets GR	£65.49	112	Salazopyrin 500mg tablets EC	£8.43	112	£57.06

Remember to complete, and submit the cost savings recording template which accompanied the Q2 report to bswibc.prescribing@nhs.net

Shortage of Dulaglutide (Trulicity®) and Semaglutide (Ozempic®) injections Update

There is uncertainty whether Lilly and Novo Nordisk products supply issues will be resolved this quarter.

As per previous advice we would like to reinstate the advisory statement that **no new patients** should be initiated on these products.

Please see the BSW ICB Diabetes Special Edition Newsletter Oct 2022 [here](#) for information about managing GLP1 shortages. Also see - [Formulary](#) for Traffic Light Status and further info

PWSL update – Dalonev discontinuation

We have been informed that Mibe Pharma has ceased business operations within the UK meaning Dalonev ointment will no longer be available. Dalonev had previously featured in [PWSL](#) as a cost-effective **calcipotriol/betamethasone** ointment option. Practices may wish to proactively review patients currently receiving Dalonev.

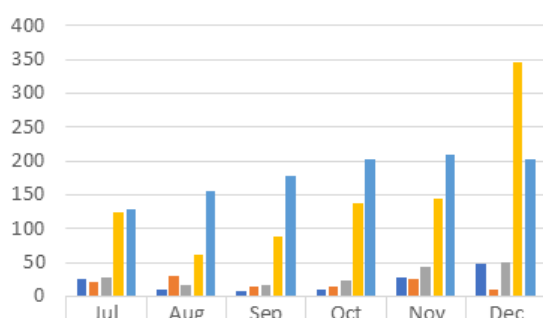
Generic calcipotriol/betamethasone ointment remains available and remains first line formulation. Other formulations (gel/cream/foam) are also included on [Formulary](#) as second line options to support compliance with treatment when ointment is not suitable

Community Pharmacy Consultation Service and Patient Group Directions (PGDs)

BSWICB has developed a [flow chart](#) for BSW healthcare providers describing the Community Pharmacy Consultation Service and the locally commissioned Patient Group Directions service.

This has been developed by the Local Pharmaceutical Committees, in conjunction with the ICB Medicines Optimisation team, to clarify the scope of the minor illness services commissioned in community pharmacy. We hope this is a useful tool for teams.

Service by Month



Year to date, BSW is the second highest user of CPCS in the South West, with 7313 consultations having been completed in pharmacies. On average each month there are 1219 consultations sent to a community pharmacist which is fantastic and there is scope to increase this further to support general practices.

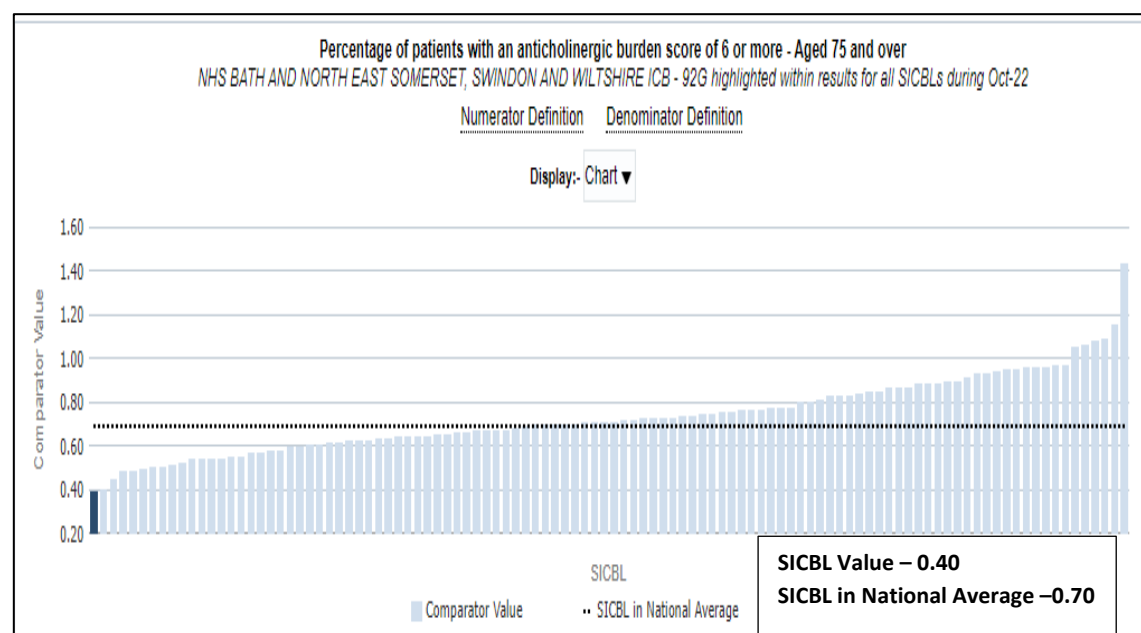
The PGDs cover treatment of sore throat, UTI, impetigo, conjunctivitis (under 2s) and some mild skin conditions. Sore throat PGDs have been updated to reflect the new Strep A guidance including treating children with a FeverPAIN score of 3. The number of PGD consultations delivered in BSW is growing steadily, with 2402 consultations delivered since the service went live in the summer. **Thank you for your continued support with this.**

Please direct any queries to hwilkinson1@nhs.net

Anticholinergic Prescribing Update

Since 2020 BSW CCG/ICB has included projects aimed at reducing Anticholinergic Burden (ACB) in vulnerable groups of patients in the annual Prescribing Incentive Scheme.

Thanks to your work in reviewing and reducing prescribing of medicines with high ACB in our frail & elderly patients, based on October 2022 ePACT2 data, BSW ICB has the lowest percentage of elderly patients (75 yrs & over) with very high ACB scores (6 or more) in the country



The benefits to our patients in reducing the risk of long-term anticholinergic effects including dementia and falls are, and will continue to be, significant.

Thank you to everyone who has helped us achieve this and please keep up the good work.

Medicines Optimisation website Update

New Documents	New /updated MOCH documents,	Updated documents
Summary of Community Pharmacist Consultation Service (CPCS) and BSW Patient Group Direction (PGD) Pathways	MOCH Room Temperature Monitoring Chart	BSW Prescribing 2022-23 Savings Recommendations Prescribe Well – Spend Less (January 2023)
Items which should not be routinely prescribed in primary care	MOCH Blood Sugar Monitoring Chart	TPP SystemOne Bulk Switch Guidance
Conditions for which over the counter items should not routinely be prescribed in primary care	MOCH Daily Transdermal Patch Application Record Chart	
Quick Reference Guide: Conditions for which over the counter items should not routinely be prescribed in primary care	MOCH Holiday or Day Leave Medication Tracker Sheet	
Presentation - BSW Prescribing guidance for Moderately to Severely Frail Patients	MOCH Insulin Injection Administration Record Chart	
Presentation - Future university courses/topics & Advanced Practice (UOB)	MOCH Thickener Administration Record	
	MOCH Warfarin Administration Chart	

Upcoming AHSN Network Polypharmacy Events

Polypharmacy & deprescribing AHSN Network has several events coming up in their Polypharmacy: **Getting the Balance Right Programme**.

1. Community of Practice

1.5 hour lunchtime event aimed at GPs, Pharmacists & other HCPs carrying out medication reviews, who want to learn from others & share solutions to optimise medicines.

Run quarterly, the next session is on **Thursday 23rd February** 12:30-2pm & will focus on anticholinergic burden. Further information & booking [here](#)

2. Polypharmacy Action Learning Sets

A course of three online, half day (9.30am - 12.15pm) sessions, run over two months. This learning model, developed by AHSN & Health Education England, is aimed at GPs and other prescribers who undertake medication reviews and de-prescribing on a regular basis. It aims to help prescribers understand the complex issues surrounding stopping inappropriate medicines safely.

Dates for the next cohort are **22 February, 8 March & 22 March**. Further information & booking [here](#)

3. ePACT2 Polypharmacy Understanding the Data webinars

AHSN & NHS Business Services Authority are running two more webinars on the ePACT2 Polypharmacy dashboard. Find out how to use the data to support safer prescribing & to identify individual patients at highest risk in your practice or PCN.

Webinars are 12 – 1.30pm on **Tuesday January 24th or Thursday March 16th**. Further information & booking [here](#)

This newsletter represents what is known at the time of writing so information may be subsequently superseded. Please contact the Medicines Optimisation Teams with comments/feedback or information for inclusion. This newsletter is aimed at healthcare professionals working within BSW.