

To contact NHS BSW ICB Medicines Optimisation Team:

✉ bswicb.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 January 2023 meeting can be found in full [here](#). Of particular note:

- **Updated** – Our existing SCAs for buccal midazolam have been reviewed and can be found here [Shared Care Agreements - Medicines \(bswtogether.org.uk\)](#). Updates reflect the change in Epistatus® licence (now licensed in children aged over 3 months; previously use in under 10years was outside product licence). **Please note that Buccolam® brand remains the first-line brand of choice across BSW for prolonged seizures and prevention of status epilepticus.**

Asthma update

As the [BTS/SIGN/NICE joint guideline](#) is still some time away (expected July 2024) we updated our local [BSW Asthma Inhaler Guidelines in Adults](#) to reflect up to date evidence and international guidance (Global Initiative for Asthma - [GINA](#)).

For safety, GINA does not recommend treatment of asthma in adults and adolescents with short-acting beta2-agonists (SABA) alone without inhaler corticosteroids (ICS). There is strong evidence that SABA-only treatment does not protect patients from severe exacerbations, and that regular or frequent use of SABA in asthma increases the risk of exacerbations. Instead, GINA recommends that **all adults and adolescents with asthma should receive ICS-containing controller treatment to reduce their risk of serious exacerbations and to control symptoms.**

Global Initiative for Asthma. Pocket Guide for Asthma Management and Prevention, 2022 (Available from <https://ginasthma.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/GINA-2022-Pocket-Guide-WMS.pdf>) [Accessed February 2023]

The inhaler choices included in the new [BSW Asthma Inhaler Guidelines in Adults](#) represent a significant savings opportunity for the ICB. Please consider these at asthma reviews, especially for those patients who need to step up or down in their treatment.

We are planning several asthma update training sessions (webinar as well as face to face in March) across the ICB – please look out for invites via email and join us for CPD!

Wiltshire Airways Nurse Group - Set up approximately 12 years ago to support nurses in primary care with an interest in respiratory disease. The group holds regular meetings, usually quarterly and face to face, where they have education on various aspects of respiratory care. Whilst the group was originally for nurses, they now have a wide range of health care professionals involved. There is an active WhatsApp group where you can post questions, find out about training, and gain support. If you want to join the group, please contact **Cathy on 07359421505, ideally by text.**

Drug safety updates from MHRA

[Topical testosterone \(Testogel\): risk of harm to children following accidental exposure](#)

Premature puberty and genital enlargement have been reported in children who were in close physical contact with an adult using topical testosterone and who were repeatedly accidentally exposed to this medicine. Patients advised on measures to reduce these risks.

[Xaqua \(metolazone\) 5mg tablets: exercise caution when switching patients between metolazone preparations](#)

Caution is advised if switching patients between different metolazone preparations as rate & extent of absorption are formulation dependent, and can impact bioavailability of product. Licensed formulation (Xaqua) should be used in preference to unlicensed imports in new patients. [Formulary \(bswformulary.nhs.uk\)](#) currently designates

metolazone as RED for all indications.

Acute Score Throat & Group A Strep Guideline update

A [review](#) was undertaken by the NHS England Clinical Advisory Group, professional bodies and UKHSA Group A Strep Incident Management team, a decision was made to retire the interim clinical guidance with reinstatement of the [NICE NG84](#) guideline for all age groups. The [BSW local antibiotics guidance](#) has now been updated to reflect the above changes. Clinicians should revert to NICE guidance for the management of sore throat but can continue to be alert to the severe complications of GAS and maintain a high degree of clinical suspicion when assessing patients, particularly those with preceding viral infection or close contacts of scarlet fever/iGAS.

Continuous Glucose Monitoring CGM Update

GlucoMen Day CGM

Menarini Diagnostics Ltd has recently announced that as part of their company strategy, they are committed to supporting existing patients who are currently using GlucoMen Day CGM system but will **not be able to offer any new patients' initiation on GlucoMen Day CGM** at this time.

GlucoMen Day CGM is currently listed as AMBER TLS in [BSW formulary](#). The message above has been circulated to our secondary care colleagues and key BSW diabetes stakeholders.

Key message: For existing patients only, do NOT initiate new patient on GlucoMen Day CGM.

Dexcom One CGM

The Department of Health of Social Care (DHSC) has recently confirmed that the **Dexcom One Transmitter** will be added to Part IXA of the March 2023 [Drug Tariff](#). Dexcom One CGM is currently listed as AMBER TLS in [BSW formulary](#). Dexcom **Sensors** packs are available in 2 pack sizes (1 pack which lasts 10-days and 3-pack which lasts 30 days) and **each transmitter lasts for three months.**

From March 2023, the transmitter will be prescribable as a stand-alone item with a PIP code (421-4730). A table summarising the PIP code and new tariff information is below. Please note the new changes will not influence the annual prescribing cost on Dexcom One CGM.

PIP	Product	Previous Tariff price	New Tariff price from 1st March 2023
421-4722	Dexcom One Sensor 3pk	£75	£69
421-4714	Dexcom One Sensor 1pk	£25	£23
421-4730	Dexcom One Transmitter	n/a	£18

Key message: From March 2023, the Dexcom One transmitter (PIP code 421-4730) will be prescribable in primary care clinical system and each transmitter will last for three months.

££££££££

Cost savings - Drug Switch of the Month -Sukkarto to Metformin SR –

££££££££

Drug	Cost	Quantity	Switched To	Cost	Quantity	Saving
Sukkarto SR 500mg tablets	2.48	56	Metformin MR 500mg tablets	1.58	56	0.90
Sukkarto SR 1000mg tablets	3.97	56	Metformin 1g tablets	2.23	56	1.74

Sukkarto SR is now **less cost effective** than the generic Metformin MR and we are encouraging practices to switch back. The amounts may look small, but added up **across BSW** it makes an impressive sum; potentially **£70K!** It can also be carried out as a bulk switch **provided the prescribing lead/practice pharmacist gives consent**. Guidance can be found by following this link - <https://bswtogether.org.uk/medicines/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2023/01/SystmOne-TPP-Bulk-switches-aid.pdf>. Our team of pharmacy technicians may be able to help with this. Please contact Karen Vickery (karen.vickery@nhs.net) to discuss.

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

Insuman Insulin **Discontinued** Reminder

[Medicine Supply Notification of Isophane insulin](#) has been recently communicated to you. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that Sanofi are discontinuing the remaining presentations of Insuman Insulin in the UK in both Solostar & cartridge forms.

Suggested action for primary care colleagues:

- Do not initiate new patients on Insuman products
- Please encourage patients to not over order so that supplies can be maintained until the dates mentioned in MSN and stocks are not depleted sooner.
- All patients using Insuman insulin will need to be switched to alternative treatment.

BSW DSNs have advised that you take into account the following considerations prior to switching:

- Review patient's allergy status and history of ADRs to insulin products prior to switching
- **Equivalent Lilly insulins in Kwipens formulation are recommended by our local DSNs colleagues as the preferable alternative insulin choice, if clinically appropriate**
- Consider the preparations and device type of alternative insulin. In some circumstances, patients may need new consumables i.e., reusable insulin pen or needles.
- There is unlikely to be any dose change when switching between insulins. However, after the switch, the dose should be guided by blood glucose control and signs of hypoglycaemia. As the injector device may also be different, patients should be counselled on how to use the new device.

A SystmOne clinical search has been created for you to identify your patients and this can be found as follow:

Reporting> Clinical Reporting> BSW General Practice> Medicine Optimisation team > Medication Withdrawals > Discontinuation of Insuman comb, basal & rapid Insulin- Search to identify pt who has been issued in last 4m, see MSN details for review

For further information, please refer to BSW prescribing email dated 19th Jan 2023 and see full MSN document [here](#).

NICE monthly update for primary care staff.

NICE produce a monthly e-bulletin, to support you to apply an evidence-based approach to your decision making by:

- Signposting to latest guidance and resources.
- Promoting new and updated clinical knowledge summaries. These focus on the most common and significant presentations in primary care.
- Sharing practical implementation advice and real life case studies.
- Highlighting opportunities to share your expertise and get involved in our work.

Subscribe [here](#) for information on NICE's latest guidance

[Medicines Optimisation website Update](#)

Updated documents

BSW Prescribing 2022-23 Savings Recommendations Prescribe Well – Spend Less (February 2023)PWSL

<https://bswtogether.org.uk/medicines/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2023/02/Prescribe-Well-Spend-Less-document-V25-February-2023.pdf>

New /Re-instated documents

Presentation - **Top Tips to make the most out of TPP, AccuRx and OptimiseRx**

<https://bswtogether.org.uk/medicines/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2023/01/Top-Tips.pdf>

Presentation - **Lipid Lowering Medications**

<https://bswtogether.org.uk/medicines/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2023/02/20230208-Lipid-Lowering-Medications-Practice-Pharmacists.pdf>

Medicines supply updates Antibiotic Shortages

The eight Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) for phenoxymethylpenicillin products have been extended. The revised date is now 28 February 2023.

Amendments have been made to the five Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) for phenoxymethylpenicillin products which enables therapeutic substitution (SSP043, SSP044, SSP045, SSP046 and SSP047). Azithromycin and Clarithromycin are **NO longer included** within the priority list of antibiotic alternatives for less than 10 days treatment.

Further information is available on the NHS BSA Website <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/serious-shortage-protocols-ssps>

Urgent Supply of Medicines (Palliative Care Medicines) Service.(emergency access to medicines) A number of updates have been made to this service, including

- **Levetiracetam 100mg/ml 5ml vial for infusion** has now been included in the medication list for use following the advice of palliative care specialists as per Wessex Palliative Care Handbook.
- **Vancomycin 125mg capsules** have also been added to the list. Due to the cost involved for this item, BSW ICB and the Local Pharmaceutical Committees have agreed to offer community pharmacies the following options: 1. Choose to hold the oral vancomycin stock or 2. Have a clear process in place for urgent ordering so that prescriptions can be filled quickly

The full list of stocked medications and list of participating pharmacies can be found [here](#)