

To contact NHS BSW ICB Medicines Optimisation Team:

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

## BSW Area Prescribing Committee (APC) Updates

### New and Updated Shared Care Agreements and Prescribing Guidance

- **UPDATED** - [BSW Prescribing Guidelines for DRY EYE](#) have been developed with input from our three local acute trust specialists. Guidance for **switching** to follow.
- **UPDATED** - [Summary of Intermittent and Real Time Continuous Glucose Monitoring \(CGM\) Systems available on FP10 for adults](#). Comparison table updated to reflect changes to Dexcom One transmitter procurement. Note that Freestyle Libre2 (isCGM) or DexcomOne (rtCGM) are BSW local preference choice of prescribable CGM.
- **UPDATED** - [Prescribing guidance for Oral Semaglutide \(Rybelsus®\)](#). Updated to reflect recent change to **GREEN** TLS to allow the initiation of oral semaglutide by GP's or appropriate prescribers in Primary Care as an option during ongoing shortages with injectable GLP1 agonists.
- **NEW** - [BaNES Combined Woundcare formularies](#) – Local formularies for all Practice and District Nurses, Tissue Viability Nurses and Nursing homes based in the **BaNES** locality. All **prescribing/ordering** should be via **Formeo**, a non-prescription, online ordering platform for healthcare staff, in the first instance. For more info on Formeo see our Quick Ref Guides [here](#). Please note, our ICB works within the BSW & BNSSG Wound Care Formulary Group. Further information on this group can be found at [Formulary \(bswformulary.nhs.uk\)](#). Updated guidance for Swindon and Wiltshire localities will follow in due course.

### Other BSWformulary updates

- BSW formulary team are working alongside specialist ophthalmology colleagues at GWH, RUH and SFT to align formulary options and TLS of drugs and medical devices used in the eye. Please see the full chapter here [Formulary \(bswformulary.nhs.uk\)](#). We are updating the prescribing messages on GP prescribing systems. In primary care, patients receiving prescriptions for eyedrops that are now assigned **RED** TLS, should be reviewed to consider if there is a clear indication and clear instructions on use and if the patient has input/review from secondary care. Queries on consideration for repatriating patients requiring ongoing use of eyedrops with **RED** TLS back to specialist can be raised via emailing [bswicb.formulary@nhs.net](mailto:bswicb.formulary@nhs.net) in the first instance.
- Entries have been created in the palliative care chapter for [tranexamic acid 500mg tablets and 500mg/5mL ampoules](#) and for [adrenaline 1 in 1000 ampoules](#) for topical use (off-licence) in the management of bleeding and fungating wounds (MFW) in palliative care patients in the community. Approved for prescribing in primary care for this indication **ONLY** under the direction of palliative care specialists and in line with local guideline for management of MFW in the community available [here](#) (Link to guidance also included in relevant pall care chapter entries).
- [Novopen 6 and Novopen EchoPlus](#) replace Novopen 5 and Novopen Echo respectively.
- [Pholcodine linctus](#) moved from 'OTC' to **non-formulary** in line with MHRA recommendation that pholcodine-containing medicines be withdrawn from the UK market [Pholcodine-containing cough and cold medicines: withdrawal from UK market as a precautionary measure - GOV.UK](#)

### HRT Pre-payment certificate (HRTPPC)

From 01/04/23, patients who pay for HRT prescriptions will be able to purchase an **annual HRT PPC** for £19.30. The HRT PPC, valid for 12 months, can be used against any listed HRT prescription item(s) licensed for the treatment of menopause. **The list of eligible HRT medicines and further guidance on purchasing the HRT PPC is now available [here](#)**. Patients with an HRT PPC will continue to pay a charge for any other (non-HRT) medicines (unless another exemption reason applies). **To support contractors / pharmacists while NHS prescription processing systems are updated, GPs are advised to issue HRT items on separate prescriptions.** Read more [here](#).

Additionally, our local BSW HRT Formulary Treatment Options Pathway has been reviewed: <https://bswtogether.org.uk/medicines/?s=hrt>

### Clarification of Traffic Light Status (TLS) and locality of your practice.

Often, we receive queries sent to [bswicb.prescribing@nhs.net](mailto:bswicb.prescribing@nhs.net) regarding how TLS relates to an individual locality/practice. See exact definitions we work to for each TLS: [Formulary \(bswformulary.nhs.uk\)](#). We are currently working on ensuring the wording on formulary is consistent but as an explanation, Traffic Light Status can relate to which **acute trust specialist** your patient is under (rather than the area in which they live or where the practice is situated) -i.e., **Salisbury** ( SFT) **Swindon** (GWH) or **BaNES** (RUH).We are continuing to work with the acute trusts to align, as far as possible, the TLS across the chapters into one BSW position. The main reason for TLS differences are historic as they were inherited from the 3 old formularies ( BCAP,3TS and ICID) when transferred to BSW Formulary. Unfortunately, when we launched the BSW formulary we could not iron out all anomalies straight away and are working through those remaining now. Anomalies also occur due to **commissioning differences** across the localities, for example see screenshot where donepezil is green across Wiltshire but Amber SC for Swindon & BaNES (the other 2 localities in BSW ICB)

<b>Donepezil</b> (Tablet)	<b>First Choice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A SC</b> BaNES and Swindon</li> <li>• <b>GREEN</b> Wiltshire</li> <li>• Tablet 5mg, 10mg</li> <li>• Orodispersible tablet (sugar free) 5mg. For use only in swallowing difficulties.</li> <li>• In primary care, 10mg orodispersible tablets are ~5 times the cost of 5mg tablets. Prescribe 2 x 5mg orodispersible tabs where 10mg dose is required.</li> </ul>
BNF	SPC	

### **NEW-** BSW ICB **Community Pharmacy** webpage

Found here [Pharmacies - BaNES, Swindon and Wiltshire ICB](#)  
Includes information on emergency access to medicines scheme, enhanced services for minor illnesses, pharmacy opening times and more.

### **NEW -**Addition of 'Medicines **Safety**' category on MO website

The new [Medicine Safety webpage](#) is aimed at health and care professionals working across all sectors in BSW to highlight any national or local medicines safety resources to promote and support safer practice.

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**Cost savings - Drug Switch of the Month — Tolterodine XL/Neditol XL to Tolthen XL**

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Drug	Cost	Quantity	Switched To	Cost	Quantity	Saving
Tolterodine XL 2mg/Neditol XL	11.60	28	Tolthen XL 2mg	6.99	28	4.61
Tolterodine XL 4mg/Neditol XL	25.78	28	Tolthen XL 4mg	6.99	28	18.79

(Note: it is still more cost effective to prescribe tolterodine plain tablets, but if a modified release formulation is being prescribed Tolthen XL is the most economical).

Individual practice numbers may not look overly impressive, but by switching tolterodine XL(Neditol XL) to Tolthen XL could potentially save around **£55.5K** across the BSW ICB

Remember to **complete and submit the cost savings** recording template which accompanied the Q2 report to [bswicb.prescribing@nhs.net](mailto:bswicb.prescribing@nhs.net)

**Wegovy (Semaglutide) for managing overweight and obesity – TA875**

On 08/03/2023, NICE published guidance that recommends semaglutide (Wegovy®) as an **option** for weight management alongside a reduced-calorie diet and increased physical activity in adults, **only** if:

- it is used for a max. 2 yrs, and within a specialist weight management service providing multidisciplinary management **and**
- they have at least 1 weight-related comorbidity **and**
  - ❖ a BMI of at least 35.0 kg/m<sup>2</sup> , **OR**
  - ❖ a BMI of 30.0 kg/m<sup>2</sup> to 34.9 kg/m<sup>2</sup> and meet criteria for referral to specialist weight management services in [NICE's guideline on obesity: identification, assessment and management](#). [Use lower BMI thresholds for people from South Asian, Chinese, other Asian, Middle Eastern, Black African or African-Caribbean family backgrounds].

Wegovy is **not yet commercially available**. Please refer your patients to the **statement on the ICB website** [BSW ICB Statement on Wegovy® \(semaglutide\) - Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire ICB](#)

**Medicines safety – Learning in Action**

**Shared learning from medication related patient safety Incidents**

Medicines-related patient safety incidents are unintended or unexpected incidents specifically related to medicines use, which could have or have led to patient harm. Medication related incidents are one of the most frequently occurring categories of patient safety incidents.

Sharing key details about medication related patient safety incidents helps to improve medication safety because data from reports identifies medicines related safety themes and guides the development of interventions to mitigate risks and reduce harm to patients, both locally and nationally.

A system called Learning from Patient Safety Events (LFPSE) is available for sharing reports of medicines related incidents to help identify local and national themes and guide priorities for improvement work <https://www.england.nhs.uk/patient-safety/learn-from-patient-safety-events-service/primary-care-information/>

How does your organisation share learning from medication-related patient safety incidents? Does your organisation's process for significant event analysis include sharing the event report via LFPSE?

Would you be interested to help **shape a locally agreed approach** to sharing **medicines related safety incidents**? We need guidance from stakeholders in primary care to explore how we improve shared learning from medicines related patient safety incidents in primary care. **Please get in touch** via [bswicb.prescribing@nhs.net](mailto:bswicb.prescribing@nhs.net) by **7<sup>th</sup> April** if you'd like to find out more. Please **share this with stakeholders** in your organisation with the lead for significant event analysis.

**Medicines Optimisation website Update**

**Updated documents**

BSW Prescribing 2022-23 Savings Recommendations **Prescribe Well – Spend Less** (March 2023) PWSL- <https://bswtogether.org.uk/medicines/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2023/03/Prescribe-Well-Spend-Less-document-V28-March-2023.pdf>

BSW ICB **Private Treatments**- <https://bswtogether.org.uk/medicines/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2023/03/BSW-ICB-Private-Treatments.pdf>

BSW **Controlled Drugs Summary of Information**-<https://bswtogether.org.uk/medicines/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2023/03/Controlled-Drugs-Summary-of-Information-update-April-2022-1.pdf>

**Frequently used drugs on SystmOne**-<https://bswtogether.org.uk/medicines/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2023/03/Frequently-used-drugs-SystmOne.pdf>

TPP SystmOne **Configuring your patient specific warnings**-<https://bswtogether.org.uk/medicines/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2023/03/Configuring-your-patient-specific-warnings.pdf>

Using **BSW Medicines Optimisation Formulary** in SystmOne(TPP)-<https://bswtogether.org.uk/medicines/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2023/03/Formulary-screenshots-and-instructions-BSW-V1.3.pdf>

**Answering questions about Medicines** – a list of useful resources-<https://bswtogether.org.uk/medicines/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2023/03/resources-v0.3.pdf>

**Polypharmacy Training**

Stopping inappropriate medicines safely can be complex. The AHSN Polypharmacy Action Learning Sets help build confidence with delivering structured medication reviews based around effective shared decision making. These evidence-based sessions provide a structured approach and tools to assist with stopping inappropriate polypharmacy. The learning can be applied immediately into practice, and reflected on in a supportive group setting throughout programme. A new series of Action Learning Sets will be running from **April 2023 to March 2024**. Please register your and you will be contacted when dates are released - [Polypharmacy ALS Interest | May 1 \(weahsn.net\)](#). The sessions are aimed at GPs, Pharmacists and other prescribers and typically involve attendance at three online sessions over the course of one-two months.

**GP Evidence – new website <https://gpevidence.org/>**

This **new** website helps convey benefits and risks to patients during consultations on long term conditions (LTCs). It uses plain language, smiley face charts and shared decision-making principles to help make complex information understandable and usable. GP Evidence initially covers 13 LTC including Lipids, Menopause, Diabetes & Hypertension. The website is designed with, and oriented to the knowledge level of GPs but the content will be useful for any healthcare professional working in the management of LTCs in primary care.