



To contact NHS BSW ICB Medicines Optimisation Team:

✉ bswibc.prescribing@nhs.net

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

BSW Area Prescribing Committee (APC) Updates (see all recent decisions in full [here](#))

New and Updated Shared Care Agreements/Change in Traffic Light Status

- BSW **Shared Care Agreement (SCA) and monitoring guidelines for DMARDs** have been updated to include methotrexate, azathioprine and mycophenolate in chronic inflammatory respiratory indications (sarcoidosis and other interstitial lung diseases). Monitoring is as per existing schedule. This is off-label use; additional information is included in our SCA as per British Thoracic Society clinical statement and BSW respiratory team consensus.
- **BSW Shared Care Agreement (SCA) Denosumab (Prolia®) for osteoporosis in adults** Section 5 of the SCA (Monitoring requirements) updated to bring CrCl thresholds and monitoring requirements for post injection blood testing in line with [Summary of Product Characteristics](#). Comprehensive advice for recognising and managing hypocalcaemia are also given. Contact details for specialist teams updated.

Minor amendments to Netformulary

- **Naseptin® cream**. Information included on recent formulation change. The excipient Arachis oil (peanut oil) has been removed but both the original formulation containing Arachis oil and the revised formulation without Arachis oil will be in circulation in the supply chain until November 2025. **Extra care regarding patient allergy status must be taken when prescribing and dispensing this product during this transition period. (GREEN TLS)**

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 and Optimise Profiles are in line with the joint formulary. If you discover information you believe to be inaccurate or misleading, or for further information, email bswibc.formulary@nhs.net

££££££££ Cost saving drug switch of the month: generic Buprenorphine patch, Butec patch, Butrans patch (15 MICROGRAM STRENGTH ONLY) to Sevodyne 15microgram patch ££££££££

Product	Cost	Switched To	Cost	Saving
Buprenorphine 15microgram patch	49.15	Sevodyne 15microgram patch	15.48	33.67
Butec 15 microgram patch	22.12	Sevodyne 15microgram patch	15.48	6.64
Butrans 15microgram patch	49.15	Sevodyne 15microgram patch	15.48	33.67
Reletrans 15 microgram patch	17.70	Sevodyne 15microgram patch	15.48	2.22

If these switches were carried out across the whole of BSW a potential **£34k** could be saved!

At the **end of each financial quarter** please remember to **complete and submit the cost savings recording template** which accompanies the Quarterly reports to bswibc.prescribing@nhs.net

[Medicines Optimisation website](#)

Updated documents

BSW Prescribing 2023-24 Savings Recommendations Prescribe Well – Spend Less (July 2023)

PWSL
<https://bswtogether.org.uk/medicines/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2023/07/Prescribe-Well-Spend-Less-document-July-2023-V35.pdf>

Emergency Access to Medicines Scheme information - participating pharmacies

<https://bswtogether.org.uk/medicines/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2023/06/Participating-Pharmacies-June-2023.pdf>

Emergency Access To Medicines Scheme - list of medications

<https://bswtogether.org.uk/medicines/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2023/07/Emergency-Access-to-Medicine-Scheme-Medication-list-Nov-2022-v2-003.pdf>

MOCH Thickeners – A Guide to Prescribing

<https://bswtogether.org.uk/medicines/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2023/07/MOCH-thickeners-a-guide-to-prescribing.pdf>

PGDs

Comm Pharm Nitrofurantoin UTI PGD BSW v1.3

[Comm-Pharm-Nitrofurantoin-UTI-PGD-BSW-V1.3-June-2023.pdf \(bswtogether.org.uk\)](#)

Comm Pharm Trimethoprim UTI PGD BSW v1.4

[Comm-Pharm-Trimethoprim-UTI-PGD-BSW-V1.4-June-2023.pdf \(bswtogether.org.uk\)](#)

Community Pharmacy UTI PGD flowchart BSW

[Community-Pharmacy-UTI-PGD-flowchart-BSW-12042023.pdf \(bswtogether.org.uk\)](#)

Have you seen?

Management of migraine – update

NICE have recently published recommendations for new drugs eptinezumab and for rimegepant for preventing migraine. Later this year we expect further advice from NICE for using rimegepant as an acute migraine treatment and a further new drug (agotepant) for prevention. Read more here [Products - Headaches | Topic | NICE](#). There is a 90 day implementation period and we are working with neurology specialists across BSW to implement the NICE recommendations into existing local treatment pathways by the autumn and to improve headache treatment pathways with primary care. **Until these updates have been approved by the Area Prescribing Committee, please continue to refer to [BSW Chronic Migraine Pathway](#) and the [Biologic Migraine Prevention Pathway](#)**

Scabies treatments - supply problems

Currently Lyclear dermal cream is out of stock Permethrin cream 5% made by Sandoz - [Permethrin 5% w/w Cream - Summary of Product Characteristics \(SmPC\) - \(emc\) \(medicines.org.uk\)](#) is available from AAH & Phoenix wholesalers. Advice from Sandoz Customer services is that Community Pharmacies may need to telephone local AAH or Phoenix depots to request they order more from Sandoz who have plenty of stock.

Drug Safety Updates

The MHRA [Drug Safety Update](#) contains information around the consultation on the reclassification of **Codeine Linctus** to a POM.

It also contains an article about **hyoscine patches** and the risk of anticholinergic side effects, including hyperthermia.

A general reminder of **safe use of any drug patch** can be found on the new SPS page - <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/using-transdermal-patches-safely-in-healthcare-settings/>

Academic Health Science Network (AHSN) Polypharmacy Events

The AHSN's Polypharmacy Action Learning Sets (ALS) take place over three half-day sessions. The ALS have been developed in partnership with Health Education England to assist GPs, Pharmacists and other healthcare professionals who undertake prescribing/deprescribing understand the complexities and issues surrounding stopping inappropriate medicines safely. If you are a prescriber with 12months+ experience and are interested in learning more to take into practice, register using the links below:

17 October, 31 October and 14th November: [Polypharmacy Action Learning Set Cohort 9 | Oct 17 \(weahsn.net\)](#)
1st November, 15 November and 29th November [Polypharmacy Action Learning Set Cohort 7 | Nov 1 \(weahsn.net\)](#)

8th November, 22 November and 6 December: [Polypharmacy Action Learning Set Cohort 10 | Nov 8 \(weahsn.net\)](#)

24th January 24, 7th February and 28th February [Polypharmacy Action Learning Set Cohort 11 | Jan 24 \(weahsn.net\)](#)

The next AHSN **Polypharmacy Community of Practice** session is on 28th Sept 2023, 12:00-13:30, register here:

[Community of Practice event 5](#) The topic will be based on your feedback and potential options include 'Tools to support Structured Medication Reviews' and 'Social Prescribing'. Please add your preferred options [here](#)

Optimise Formulary Messages

Optimise has recently been updated to align Traffic Light Status (TLS) messages with [Formulary](#) across BSW practices. Whilst we have worked hard to ensure the consistency across all localities it has resulted in some anomalies e.g. medicine flagging up as RED in error. Practices have kindly informed the MO team about some anomalies and these have been rectified. Should you notice any further anomalies please contact bswibc.prescribing@nhs.net Please note BSW ICB has a form [Drug application forms - Medicines \(bswtogether.org.uk\)](#) that any clinician can complete and submit if they wish for a review of the traffic light status.

HRT PPC – Provera (for information)

*As per a response to a practice query re branded medroxyprogesterone please see DoHCSC advice :- I can confirm that generic versions of the listed HRT products are covered by the HRT PPC, providing the prescription is **written generically**. As it is not possible to determine the indication for a prescription written generically, we have updated the wording in Part XVI (Section X) of the Drug Tariff to make this clearer, **from 1 August** it will read:*

*“Generic versions of the products listed below are also covered by the HRT only PPC, provided the **prescription is written generically**.”*

We are aware that there is not currently a generic medroxyprogesterone product, only Climamor, which is discontinued. We understand that the most commonly used alternative is Utrogestan which is already listed for inclusion. If a prescription is written specifically for **Provera (of any strength) it is not in scope** for the HRT

Update on BSW preferred blood glucose testing strips

In April 2023, NHSE published national commissioning recommendations for blood glucose and ketone meters, test strips and lancets [found here](#). We reviewed the national recommendations in consultation with the specialist diabetes clinicians across BSW and have made some minor amendments to our local guidance [BSW Self-Monitoring of Blood Glucose in Diabetes Guideline](#). See summary below:

True Metrix strips and Contour Plus strips - remain first choice preferred options for new initiations and for meters requiring replacement. This is in line with NHSE commissioning recommendations and endorsed by local specialist teams.

PalmDoc strips – should only be used for existing patients only. These are not included in NHSE commissioning recommendations. Existing patients (low numbers across BSW) can continue to receive these until their meter needs replacing.

Accu-chek instant – remain first choice locally for those with dexterity problems. These are not included in NHSE commissioning recommendations but are endorsed by local specialist teams who wish to continue to use them in those with dexterity problems as per BSW guidelines.

The national recommendations will be reviewed annually and will inform future versions of our local blood glucose testing guidance which will continue to be produced in consultation with the BSW specialist diabetes teams.

Did you know ?

SPS has launched a web assistant pilot to answer questions about medicines in patient with **swallowing difficulties** - <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/welcoming-the-web-assistant-pilot/> see their article below-

Launching Web Assistant-SPS is excited to announce the launch of our Web Assistant pilot. The pilot aligns with our mission to improve access to important medicines advice; helping healthcare professionals make crucial clinical decisions more quickly and effectively.

The **Web Assistant function** is a new way for us to assist you in finding answers to medicines-related questions on our website, whilst also offering opportunities for you to connect with our medicines advice team.

The pilot is focused on supporting you with questions about the administration of medicines in patients with swallowing difficulties.

The Web Assistant will help you navigate to information on swallowing difficulties. If you do not find the answer to your question you will be given the opportunity to contact our Medicines Advice service advisors

The **Web Assistant** launcher can be found on the bottom right-hand corner of the screen on our [swallowing difficulties](#) page.

BBC Radio 4: File on 4 - The Epilepsy Drug Scandal

Can be found via this link [BBCRadio4 FileOn4 Valproate](#) (register or sign in may be required). This compelling programme covers the powerful personal stories of families **harmed by valproate** use during pregnancy, how better medicines regulation could have helped prevent this, the importance of patient education to raise awareness of the risks and the current effectiveness of the pregnancy prevention programme. It quotes that in the UK three babies a month are still being born exposed to valproate. The programme touches on safety data signals of paternal exposure to valproate at the time of conception and transgenerational effects which the manufacturer is now re-analysing and the medicine regulator is currently considering [December 2022 Drug Safety Update](#)