



## **BSW Formulary Update – October 2023 (Note Aug/Sep 23 APC meetings cancelled due to holiday season and industrial action)**

### **New additions to BSWformulary**

**Zoely® (norgestrel acetate and estradiol hemihydrate) tablets** – Added with **green** TLS; restricted to use as a third-line option where women have experienced side effects on first- and second-line combined pills, who are >40 years of age and perimenopausal.

**SyreniRing® (ethinylestradiol/etonogestrel)** – Added with **green** TLS; this contraceptive vaginal ring (CVR) contains the same active ingredients as NuvaRing. SyreniRing does not require refrigeration and has a shelf-life of two years. More information on CVRs here <https://www.fsrh.org/news/fsrh-ceu-statement-availability-and-dispensing-of-combined/>

**Emollin spray** – Added with **green** TLS; restricted to use as a second-line option for very painful or fragile skin where there is difficulty with 'hands on' application of creams/ointments or where a spray allows self-application, negating the need for DN/HCP visits. Remind patient of risks of spray formulation. Clothing and bedding with emollient products dried onto them can be easily ignited with a naked flame. Inadvertent spraying on floor surfaces could lead to slips.

**Adex gel** – Added with **green** TLS; restricted to use as a second-line option for facial inflammatory conditions - eczema, psoriasis, perioral dermatitis, seborrheic dermatitis. Useful in specific groups of patients where topical steroid sparing is required but Topical Calcineurin Inhibitors (tacrolimus, pimecrolimus) not tolerated/effective or reduced Topical Corticosteroid frequencies are giving flare.

**Zeyzelf® (rivastigmine twice weekly) patches** – Added to **non-formulary** section. These twice weekly rivastigmine patches, launched in the UK in Sept 2023 are considered **non-formulary**. There is a risk of incorrect application due to unfamiliarity with this dosing; Zeyzelf is not available in all strengths and there is no cost-advantage of using Zeyzelf. Please continue to prescribe rivastigmine patches in line with our [local Shared Care Agreement](#) and as per [PWSL](#).

**Vydura® (Rimegepant) 75mg oral lyophilisate** – Added with **red** TLS.

Rimegepant (Vydura) is a calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP) receptor antagonist available as an oral lyophilisate costing £12.90 per 75 mg tablet. **NICE** have recently published two separate recommendations for rimegepant:

- [Overview | Rimegepant for preventing migraine | Guidance | NICE](#) (Published July 2023) **For preventing episodic migraine** in adults who have  $\geq 4$  and fewer than 15 migraine attacks per month, only if at least 3 preventative treatments have not worked. **Currently RED Traffic Light Status for prevention indication** while commissioners consider a business case.
- [Overview | Rimegepant for treating acute migraine | Guidance | NICE](#) (Published October 2023) **For the acute treatment of migraine** with or without aura in adults, only if for previous migraines: at least 2 triptans were tried and they did not work well enough OR triptans were contraindicated or not tolerated, and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and paracetamol were tried but did not work well enough. **Currently not to be used for acute treatment indication**. Will be available for prescribing ~January 2024 after the 90 day NICE implementation period which allows discussion on Traffic Light Status and time to update treatment pathways and prescribing systems.

Please continue to follow the [BSW Chronic Migraine Pathway for primary care](#) which has had a minor update to reflect this information and will be revised again in 2024.



## **Change in Traffic Light status**

**Xaqua® metolazone 5mg tablets** - Added with **amber** TLS.

In recent years metolazone was only available in the UK as an unlicensed (imported) product which was assigned red TLS across BSW. Now, there is a licensed 5mg tablet formulation with brand name Xaqua®. **Prescribing and supply of metolazone should be BRAND SPECIFIC; Xaqua® is the approved brand in BSW. All existing and new patients are expected to now be using Xaqua®.** Unintentional switching between products may result in toxicity or subtherapeutic effects as the bioavailability of Xaqua® is up to two-fold higher than other brands. Further comprehensive information on indication, dosing and bioavailability to support safe prescribing of Xaqua® is available in the MHRA alert [here](#) and SPS link [here](#). **If patients are currently receiving unlicensed supplies of metolazone in primary care, we recommend consulting specialist teams or [bswicb.prescribing@nhs.net](mailto:bswicb.prescribing@nhs.net) for advice.**

**Icosapent ethyl** – Changed from amber to **green** traffic light.

One year on from the publication of NICE Guidance TA805 [Overview: Icosapent ethyl with statin therapy for reducing the risk of cardiovascular events in people with raised triglycerides](#), the TLS of Icosapent ethyl is revised from amber to green now information to support optimising lipid management in primary care is available in the [National guideline for lipid management](#). Local specialists support these reminders for prescribing in primary care:

### **Criteria:**

For use in patients with established CVD

- Need to be taking a statin.
- Latest triglycerides (1.7mmol/L or above) and LDL-c above 1.04mmol/l but ≤ 2.60mmol/L.

### **Cautions for use:**

- Patients with known hypersensitivity to fish and/or shellfish – it is not clear whether these patients are at an increased risk of allergic reaction.
- Patients with known hepatic impairment should have ALT & AST checked at the start and during treatment.
- Patients should be counselled on the increased risk of atrial fibrillation or flutter, along with signs and symptoms of this. Patients with a known history of atrial Fibrillation or atrial flutter may be at greatest risk; consider an ECG when clinically indicated.
- All patients should be counselled on the increased risk of bleeding, along with signs and symptoms of this. Patients taking concomitant antiplatelet or antithrombotic medication may be at a greater risk and should be monitored periodically.

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

- **Updated - [BSW SCA for DMARDs in adults](#)**

Now incorporates GWH gastroenterology service which allowed us to retire an old 3Ts azathioprine/mercaptopurine SCA. Also updates to sulfasalazine monitoring section [once stable, common local practice is to monitor U&Es annually] and to the shingles vaccination national programme information. Some minor typographical corrections including updates to some contact details.

- **Update – [BSW Emollient products for adults and children](#)** – Updated guidance produced with collaboration from BSW dermatology specialists. We remind prescribers that patients with **mild dry skin can be successfully managed purchasing their own over the counter products** on a long-term basis. **Emollients should only be prescribed for long term**



**dermatitis, eczema, psoriasis or other inflammatory conditions.** Prescribers should use the clinically appropriate emollient with the lowest acquisition cost first line. **Please also refer to our Quick Reference Guide to [BSW First Line Emollients](#) document for first line preferences.**

In the event of supply problems, where preferred brands are not available, please change to a different brand of similar cost with similar ingredients. Specialists may use their clinical judgement to consider bath/shower emollients for specific patients e.g. noncompliance with regular emollients of more than one emollient/type or patients with painful skin conditions who cannot tolerate emollient creams/ointments. The reasons for prescribing outside the formulary should be clearly documented.

- **Updated – [BSW Guidelines for use of melatonin in children](#)** – Update includes **generic melatonin 2mg m/r tablets** as a first line alternative to Adaflex® immediate release tablets and the first line prolonged release option instead of Circadin®. Also includes newly licensed (for ADHD, used off-label for ASD related sleep problems) **Ceyesto® 1mg/ml oral solution** as preferred brand when liquid formulation is required. These changes present significant cost savings for the BSW system. Formulary has been updated here [Formulary \(bswformulary.nhs.uk\)](#)

### **Minor amendments to Netformulary**

- Alphosyl 2 in 1 shampoo and Selsun shampoo discontinued and removed from formulary; [Neutrogena T-GEL shampoo \(coal tar 2%\)](#) 125ml and 250ml added with self-care TLS.
- Dihydrocodeine 10mg/5ml oral solution discontinued and removed from formulary.
- Updates made to formulary positioning of relevant antivirals for Covid in line with [NICE TA878](#). Local access information updated in relevant entries here [Formulary \(bswformulary.nhs.uk\)](#)
- [Estraderm MX estradiol patches](#) added in addition to Evorel and Estradot in line with [SSP057 Estradot 100mcg patches.pdf \(nhsbsa.nhs.uk\)](#)
- TLS for oral ondansetron aligned as green for all indications. TLS for ondansetron injection remains amber. [Formulary \(bswformulary.nhs.uk\)](#)
- [vancomycin intravitreal injection](#) and [ethanol 20% injection](#) (for corneal delamination) aligned with RED TLS across all trusts.
- [Prucalopride](#) - Removed wording that indicated prucalopride was only locally approved for use in females. License now includes men and women.
- Yuflyma® brand added to [adalimumab entries](#); Yuflyma® now first line biosimilar across BSW.
- Amendments to brand names of anterior pituitary hormones (red TLS) used in fertility indications. [Formulary \(bswformulary.nhs.uk\)](#)
- BSW woundcare formulary resources added to relevant locality entry in woundcare chapter [Formulary \(bswformulary.nhs.uk\)](#)



- Recent MHRA guidance on full-pack dispensing and risks in children of men taking valproate added to all sodium valproate and valproic acid entries [Formulary \(bswformulary.nhs.uk\)](https://www.bswformulary.nhs.uk)

### **What the BSW CCG formulary team are currently working on**

- Working with specialists across BSW to update our testosterone in HRT Shared care Agreement.
- Working with specialist colleagues on an update of the BSW Prescribing Guidance for Moderately to Severely Frail Patients.
- Working with specialist colleagues and commissioners on the implementation of several recent NICE technology appraisals (NICE TAs) that we anticipate to be available in primary care. These include Wegovy® (semaglutide [NICE TA875](#)); Quviviq® (daridorexant [NICE TA922](#)); Mounjaro® (tirzepatide [NICE TA924](#)). Further information will follow once a Traffic Light Status and any local prescribing guidance has been agreed.
- Reviewing applications for Doxylamine succinate 10mg and pyridoxine hydrochloride 10mg tablets (Xonvea®) for nausea and vomiting of pregnancy; Dexmedetomidine 100microgram/mL solution for injection for conscious sedation in paediatric patients (unlic); Trifarotene 50microgram/g cream (Akliief®) for acne vulgaris of the face and/or the trunk in patients ≥12 years of age.

*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 [bswicb.formulary@nhs.net](mailto:bswicb.formulary@nhs.net)*