

To contact NHS BSW ICB Medicines Optimisation Team: ✉ bswicb.prescribing@nhs.net
Website: <https://bswtogether.org.uk/medicines/>

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

New additions to BSWformulary and Change in Traffic Light Status

- **Bempedoic acid monotherapy** – change from **amber** to **green**. Use of bempedoic acid as monotherapy is within the product license for Nilemdo® but outside of current NICE recommendations. In patients with true intolerance to ezetimibe, the use of bempedoic acid as monotherapy is ONLY supported locally where there are no other suitable alternative treatment options.
- **Candesartan for migraine prophylaxis** – change from **amber** to **green** in line with recently updated [BSW primary care migraine treatment pathway](#) BASH patient information leaflet [here](#)
- **Carbimazole** and **sulfasalazine** entries aligned as **amber** and **amber (with SCA)** respectively.

New and Updated Shared Care Agreements and Prescribing Guidance

- **UPDATE** – **Denosumab for osteoporosis in adults** SCA – Information added regarding stopping and switching treatment, highlighting the risks of an abrupt stop of treatment.
- **NEW** – **BSW Continence and Urology Products Formulary** – This list of continence and urology products has been compiled in consultation with continence leads across BSW. Further work is underway to consider specialist areas such as intermittent self-catheterisation and review opportunities for cost-savings.
- **UPDATE** – **BSW Management of Infection Guidance for Primary Care** – Minor update to antibiotic choice in the epididymo-orchitis section, as per CKS.
- **UPDATE** - **Treatment of Alzheimer’s Disease SCA** Minor update to contact details section

Minor amendments to Netformulary

- **Tirzepatide (Mounjaro®) 2.5mg/0.6ml and 5mg/0.6ml solution for injection 2.4ml pre-filled KwikPen®** - designated **green** now available for prescribing in line with [NICE TA924](#) and [local guidance](#).

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

Polypharmacy Lunchtime Webinars

Prescribing Safely in Older People – 13th May

Join **Health Innovation West of England** webinar to find out why we need to be more careful about prescribing for older people, understand more about the drug metabolism in older people and some of the common safety issues. Dr Lauren Walker Senior Clinical Lecturer in Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics and Internal Medicine, University of Liverpool is our Guest Speaker. The session will include therapeutics, evidence base summary and patient case study for discussion and learning, followed by a Q&A session. Register: [here](#)

Stopping Antidepressants Safely – 21st May Join Dr Mark Horowitz, author of The Maudsley Deprescribing Guidelines, Clinical Research Fellow and Training Psychiatrist on stopping antidepressants safely and managing withdrawal symptoms. The session will include a summary of the evidence base and patient case study for discussion and learning, followed by a Q&A session. Register: [here](#)

Shortages of Nutramigen Puramino

From local BSW guidelines there are alternative specialist amino acid baby milk formulas which can be prescribed short term while stocks replenish:

- SMA Alfamino (Nestle Health Science) from birth
- Neocate LCP (Nutricia) from birth to one year, can be used beyond if appropriate or Neocate Junior (Nutricia) for over one year.
- Elecare (Similac Abbot Nutrition) from birth

If the above have not been well tolerated or you have additional questions, please contact your local paediatric dietetic team

Bath - Paediatric Dietitians: 01225 826449
Swindon - GWH Paediatric Dietitians: 01793 605145
Wiltshire - Paediatric Dietitians: 01249 456512
Salisbury - Paediatric Dietitians: 01722 336262 ext 4333

Discontinued insulin devices – Insulatard Innolet & Levemir Innolet

From MSN actions required are -

[Insulatard Innolet MSN 2024](#)

Actions Required

Prescribers should:

- not initiate patients on Insulatard® InnoLet®
- identify and review patients currently prescribed Insulatard® InnoLet®;
- consider prescribing Humulin® I KwikPen® pre-filled pens where appropriate, taking into account the patient’s manual dexterity, vision, ability to use new device correctly, and whether support is required with administering the dose; and
- seek advice from specialist diabetes team on management options if the above option is not considered suitable.

Prescribers and pharmacies should:

- ensure that all patients initiated on a new device are counselled on the change in device, provided with appropriate needles, training on use of new device, including signposting to training videos, and advised closer monitoring of blood glucose levels may be required (see Supporting Information).

[Levemir Innolet MSN 2024](#)

Actions Required

Prescribers should:

- not initiate patients on Levemir® InnoLet®;
- identify and review patients currently prescribed Levemir® InnoLet®;
- consider prescribing Levemir® FlexPens® or Levemir® Penfill® cartridges where appropriate, taking into account the patient’s manual dexterity, vision, ability to use new device correctly, and where support is required with administering the dose;
- when prescribing Levemir® Penfill® cartridges, ensure that the patient is prescribed a Novo Nov insulin delivery system and appropriate needles (see Supporting Information); and
- seek advice from specialist diabetes team on management options if the above options are not considered suitable.

Prescribers and pharmacies should:

- ensure that all patients initiated on a new device are counselled on the change in device, provided with training on their use, including signposting to training videos, and advised closer monitoring of blood glucose levels may be required (see Supporting Information).

Emergency access to medicines scheme

The purpose of this scheme is to ensure prompt access to certain prescription-only medicines that may be needed in an emergency from pharmacies spread across BSW.

These medicines include, but are not limited to, "End of Life" drugs. Details of **participating Community Pharmacies** can be found [here](#)

The **list of medicines** can be found [here](#)

For further information or concerns around this service please notify bswicb.prescribing@nhs.net

Medicines Optimisation website

New documents

Presentation - Optimising antimicrobial duration-[BSW-Optimising-Antimicrobial-Duration.pdf](#)

Presentation - Wound Care Update-[Wound-Care-Update-Feb-2024.pdf](#)

Presentation – Silver Dressings-[Silver-Dressings-Feb-2024.pdf](#)

BSW Prescribing 2023-24 Savings Recommendations Prescribe Well – Spend Less-[Prescribe-Well-Spend-Less-document-V43-March-2024.pdf](#)

Registering for Self-Service Smartcard unlocking-<https://bswtogether.org.uk/medicines/documents/registering-for-self-service-smartcard-unlocking/>

BSW Controlled drugs summary of information-[Controlled-Drugs-Summary-of-Information-update-March-2024.pdf](#)

BSW Prescribing Guidance for Moderately to Severely Frail Patients-[Frailty-Prescribing-Guidance-Feb-2024-update-FINAL.pdf](#)

Free of Charge Medicines Schemes-<https://www.england.nhs.uk/free-of-charge-foc-medicines-schemes>

To ensure you are always using the most **up to date** information, please always check and search for our latest documents and information via the [BSW ICB Medicines Optimisation Team website](#)

Anticholinergic Medication Leaflet Now Available in More Languages

Thanks to Health Innovation West of England (formerly the Academic Health Science Network) our patient information leaflet on anticholinergic medication is now available in 10 additional languages:

Arabic Romanian

Mandarin Russian

Nepali Sorani

Polish Turkish

Portuguese Ukrainian

The leaflets have been added to our MO website- [here](#).

If you have any feedback on the leaflets, please contact bswicb.prescribing@nhs.net

££££££££ Cost Saving drug switch of the month ensure Plus juice to Aymes Actagain -££££££££

Product	Cost	Quantity	Switch to	Cost	Quantity	Saving
Ensure Plus Juice BD	£149.52	56	Aymes Actagain Juice BD	£100.80	56	£48.72

NB – follow local guidelines for when to initiate ONS i.e. MUST of 2 or more and aims not being met through home-made nourishing drinks and nutrient dense fortified diet.

NB – Juice based supplements have an inferior nutritional profile to milk based. They are also not suitable for individuals with diabetes unless advised by a Dietitian.

If juice-based supplements deemed appropriate; where a juice-based powder supplement is suitable it should be trialled before ready-made i.e. Aymes Actasolve Smoothie as it is considerably more cost effective than any of the options detailed above (Aymes Actasolve Smoothie BD – 56 sachets - £55.44) Should a **Dietitian have advised** on a specific nutritional product **please do not switch**.

Under Recognised **Interaction** – Warfarin and Tramadol

A recent Coroner's Prevention of future deaths report from Hertfordshire has highlighted a little known but potentially severe interaction between tramadol and warfarin which increases the effects of warfarin [Ref 2023-0485 \(Warfarin and tramadol\) Nov 2023](#)

Medication safety teams have been asked to **raise awareness of the interaction** amongst prescribers and clinical teams. As warfarin is much less frequently prescribed than in the past meaning we may become less familiar with prescribing safely, especially newly highlighted interactions. The BNF has been updated to include information about the interaction.

It would be prudent to **seek advice from local anticoagulant specialists** ensuring the patient receives appropriate frequency of INR monitoring if tramadol is newly initiated in patients prescribed warfarin, being aware that some patients may need a reduction in the anticoagulant dose or consider using an alternative non-interacting opioid such as codeine. Similarly, seek advice on appropriate INR monitoring if changes are made to tramadol dosing in any existing patients currently prescribed warfarin and tramadol.

Good practice is always to consider the effects of any medicine changes in patients taking warfarin with regards to INR control and where there is concern about a possible interaction, an alternative which doesn't interact should be considered, or if this is not possible closer monitoring of the patients INR until stable. Always discuss with the local specialist anticoagulation team if needed.

Live Well with Pain Training:

West of England Health Innovation Network - Live Well with Pain training opportunity. Training for social prescribers and clinicians including pharmacists in supporting pain self-management. The Ten Footsteps programme is designed to build confidence in people living with pain and developing ways to live well using core skills and their goals for their lives. Provided as part of the MedSIP Reducing Harm from Opioids programme. 12 hours of training provided over 3 sessions 0930-1330, **all 3 sessions in the cohort block must be attended for accreditation**. Next cohort dates: 25th April, 9th May, 23rd May.

For further information, please contact Senior Project Manager - Gill Travers, gill.travers@nhs.net

Pharmacy Research

Are you interested in pharmacy research in the South West?

If so see [South West Pharmacy Research Network](#)

[Newsletter: April 2024](#)

Parenteral syringes – **safety alert**

Promoting safer measurement and administration of liquids.

A reminder for [Community Pharmacies](#) to select oral syringes with care .

Parenteral and oral syringes are NOT interchangeable and colleagues are reminded to only provide **oral syringes for oral medications**. [Liquid medicines - Patient Safety Alert](#)