

To contact NHS BSW ICB Medicines Optimisation Team: ✉ [bswicb.prescribing@nhs.net](mailto: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

Urea breath test kits [[Diabact Urea Breath Test](#), [Helicobacter Test INFAI adult](#) [Helicobacter Test INFAI child](#)] added to formulary with **GREEN** TL. See formulary entries for links to PHE *Test and treat for Helicobacter pylori in dyspepsia* guide for primary care and for individual product SPCs.

- [Alfacalcidol oral capsules and drops](#) aligned with **AMBER** TL across BSW. It is the responsibility of the specialist to conduct monitoring on an individualised patient basis and communicate dose adjustments to primary care.
- [Rectal prednisolone preparations](#) – prednisolone 20mg/100ml retention enema is assigned a **GREEN** TL. Prednisolone 5mg suppositories and prednisolone 20mg foam enemas are now included with **AMBER** TL. These latter formulations are very expensive in primary care (May 2024: £249.64/10 suppositories and £225.45/14 foam applications) and we recommend they are prescribed on advice of specialist only.

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

BSW [SCA for Riluzole for patients within adult services](#) – Traffic Light Status aligned to Amber with SCA. The shared care paperwork has been approved for patients across BSW based on the national SCA templates. Riluzole will be included in the updated drug LES payment agreements.

*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)*

### Have you seen?

The SPS website are producing a series of articles on [medicines suitable for adults with swallowing difficulties](#). The articles focus on medicines with relevance to primary care and where there has been a high spend on special-order medicines. We will be adding these articles to relevant entries of BSWformulary.

1. [ACEI suggestions for adults with swallowing difficulties](#)
2. [ARB suggestions for adults with swallowing difficulties](#)
3. [Anticoagulant suggestions for adults with swallowing difficulties](#)
4. [Antiplatelet suggestions for adults with swallowing difficulties](#)
5. [Clozapine use in adults with swallowing difficulties](#)
6. [Parkinson's disease medicines in swallowing difficulties](#)
7. [PPI suggestions for adults with swallowing difficulties](#)
8. [SSRI suggestions for adults with swallowing difficulties](#)
9. [Statin suggestions for adults with swallowing difficulties](#)

### Topical Steroid Withdrawal Reactions

The MHRA have advised on the introduction of new labelling and a reminder of the possibility of severe side effects, including Topical Steroid Withdrawal Reactions. See [here](#)

Adverse reactions have been reported following long-term (generally 6 months or more) use of moderate or stronger potency topical steroids, particularly when used for eczema treatment – these reactions are often referred to as 'Topical Steroid Withdrawal Reactions' (TSW). Over the coming year, topical steroids will be labelled with information on their potency **to assist with counselling patients**.

When **prescribing or dispensing** topical steroids, advise on the **amount of product to apply, how often, where to apply** it and **when to stop** treatment.

### CMDU service (via BEMS+) and Paxlovid -update

There is no national system to identify potentially eligible high risk patient groups and patients could present to any healthcare professional (via GP, 111, specialist). BSW HCPs / Primary Care services to please continue to refer patients eligible for covid treatment ONLY to the CMDU unit. [Formulary \(bswformulary.nhs.uk\)](#)

**Please email [bswicb.cmdu@nhs.net](mailto:bswicb.cmdu@nhs.net) providing the following details:**

- date of onset of symptoms
- the date of a positive Covid test (if there is one)
- any additional clinical information that is relevant to the referral

**Paxlovid** is available to order **free of charge** from Alliance. **Community Pharmacies** are encouraged to **keep 2 packs in stock at all times**.

### Dispensing information - Paxlovid



- Be aware of urgent nature of treatment - **must be started within 5 days of positive test**
  - Prescription may have been issued on day 5 and required the same day
- All pharmacies / dispensaries encouraged to keep 2 packs of Paxlovid® in stock at all times
- Available **free of charge** from Alliance Healthcare (NOT from AAH or Phoenix)
- If Pharmacies are struggling to obtain stock, please contact [SPOC: MedSupplyDelivery@dnsc.gov.uk](mailto:MedSupplyDelivery@dnsc.gov.uk)
- Patient /relative may want to call ahead to check that the pharmacy has in stock

Pharmacy : If having difficulty obtaining the medication, please contact the prescriber immediately so as not to delay treatment

Prescriber : Remind the patient to contact you if they are struggling to obtain the medication from a pharmacy

- Emergency meds list of pharmacies who routinely stock if needed
- <https://bswtogether.org.uk/medicines/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2023/08/Participating-Pharmacies-August-2023.pdf>

### Topiramate: Introduction of a pregnancy prevention programme

The [June MHRA Drug Safety Update](#) announced the introduction of a new **Pregnancy Prevention Programme (PPP)** for topiramate. Topiramate is now contraindicated in pregnancy and in women of childbearing potential unless the conditions of a PPP are fulfilled. This follows a review by the MHRA which concluded that the use of topiramate during pregnancy is associated with significant harm to the unborn child. Harms included a higher risk of congenital malformation, low birth weight and a potential increased risk of intellectual disability, autistic spectrum disorder and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in children of mothers taking topiramate during pregnancy.

The Pregnancy Prevention Programme aims to ensure that women of childbearing potential are:

- Using highly effective contraception (HEC) throughout treatment and for 4 weeks after last dose (topiramate is an enzyme inducer that reduces effectiveness of hormonal contraceptives and there are limited options for HEC see [FSRH CEU Guidance](#) point 9).
- Are informed of the risks of topiramate (a patient guide for epilepsy or migraine is available).
- A risk awareness form is completed with the patient to document discussion of the risks (separate forms for epilepsy and migraine).

The BSW system medication safety group will work with system partners from across relevant sectors of BSW to help define the pathway for the topiramate PPP safety measures. We will update you about this in the coming weeks.

## [Medicines Optimisation website](#)

### New documents

MOCH Medicines in Care Home Audit

<https://bswtogether.org.uk/medicines/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2024/06/MOCH-Audit-Updated-May-24-v2.docx>

### Updated documents

Emergency Access to Medicines Scheme information - participating pharmacies

<https://bswtogether.org.uk/medicines/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2024/06/Participating-pharmacies-updated-addresses-and-telephone-numbers-June-2024.pdf>

BSW Prescribing 2024-25 Savings Recommendations Prescribe Well – Spend Less

<https://bswtogether.org.uk/medicines/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2024/06/Prescribe-Well-Spend-Less-document-V46-June-2024.pdf>

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](#)

## Appliance queries and concerns

Jackie Morgan, our **Appliance Assistant** is still available to support your appliance queries as is now integrated within the Medicines Optimisation team.

We invite you to **nominate an 'Appliance Champion'**. This person will likely be an administrator or prescription clerk who deals with prescription requests; they do not need to have previous appliance experience. The champion will be linked into a network of other champions and Jackie will support this network **with training opportunities, providing advice and signposting via the BSW Prescribing Inbox**. **Please do read the attached Appliance Newsletter for information about the new BSW Continence Formulary, updated Stoma Guidance and information on the Wound Care Management Group.**

To register your interest please contact [bswicb.prescribing@nhs.net](mailto:bswicb.prescribing@nhs.net). Also see our special Edition Appliance MOP UP [here](#) for more details and information.

## ££££££££ Cost Saving drug switch of the month -Clobazam oral suspension sugar free switching to Zacco brand ££££££££

In the past 12 months practices across BSW ICB have spent **£160k** on clobazam oral suspension (Category 2 antiepileptic drug). By prescribing as **Zacco** 10mg/5ml, approximately **£100k could be saved** each year.

Product	Pack size	Cost	NB -remember to submit the cost savings recording template which accompanied your practice quarterly report to <a href="mailto:bswicb.prescribing@nhs.net">bswicb.prescribing@nhs.net</a> . Pharmacy technician support can be offered on a first come first served basis. Please <b>do not delay making contact</b> if your practice is wishing for support to achieve 2024-25 cost savings.
Zacco 10mg/5ml oral suspension	150	£49.50	
Zacco 5mg/5ml oral suspension	150	£45.00	
Clobazam 10mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free	150	£91.39	
Clobazam 5mg/5ml oral suspension sugar free	150	£89.96	

## Insulin Safety week- 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Did you know Insulin is the drug most associated with drug errors in the UK?

According to the results from the latest National Diabetes Inpatient Audit, two in five people with diabetes on insulin (40 percent) experience an error related to the administration of the drug.

Over the last two years there have been multiple insulin errors reported across BSW. Commonly seen errors are missed doses, wrong doses, inadequate prescribing technique and misunderstanding of insulin profiles.

To highlight the importance of safe and effective care for people living with Diabetes, Wiltshire Health and Care Diabetes Specialist nurses are supporting Insulin Safety Week 2024 and running several events over the week of 1-5 July to showcase safer use of insulin and diabetes technology.

### Call to Attend and Action

A 45-minute bitesize educational session will be running via MS team every day at 2pm from Monday 1 - Friday 5 July 2024, you can learn interactively about a different aspect of insulin safety from concentrated insulin to perfecting your injection technique to prescribing safely. You can attend 1 or all 5 – depending on what suits your clinical needs. No need to book, just add the following MS Teams link to your diary and join us:

[https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting\\_MDNhgMGQ3OTAtOTE1Ni00Mjg1LWExZDctMwI1N2E5Y2M1ZDFi%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2237c354b2-85b0-47f5-b222-07b48d774ee3%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22a12dd6e3-5c5d-44ea-8363-868aef6e243c%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting_MDNhgMGQ3OTAtOTE1Ni00Mjg1LWExZDctMwI1N2E5Y2M1ZDFi%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2237c354b2-85b0-47f5-b222-07b48d774ee3%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22a12dd6e3-5c5d-44ea-8363-868aef6e243c%22%7d)

### Resources available:

[The six steps to insulin safety - DiabetesontheNet](#)

Diabetes Specialist Nurse Forum: [HCP Resources — DSN Forum \(diabetesspecialistnurseforumuk.co.uk\)](https://www.diabetesspecialistnurseforumuk.co.uk/)

Insulin Safety Week 2024 Campaign: <https://insulinsafetyweek.com/online-resource-pack/>

