

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 BSW formulary and Change in Traffic Light Status

- [Sodium acid phosphate with sodium bicarbonate suppository \(Lecicarbon A\)](#) – added to formulary with **amber** TL for use in a very small cohort of pelvic floor patients with dyschezia.
- [Melatonin for sleep disorders in adults with learning disability](#) who also have a co-morbid mental illness (e.g. depression, mania, psychosis, dementia etc.) OR disorder (e.g. autism or autistic spectrum, anxiety disorders, adult ADHD etc.). Added with **amber** TL, specialist initiation and stabilisation for 3/12, plus annual review by specialist and accompanied by [prescribing guidance](#) due to off-label use.
- [Erythropoietin entries](#) – TLS aligned as **red** for all **new** patients. Primary care to review any existing patients and discuss with BSW formulary team via [bswicb.formulary@nhs.net](mailto:bswicb.formulary@nhs.net) to make an appropriate individualised plan for repatriating prescribing back into trusts and ensure prescribing and monitoring is carried out by the most appropriate clinician.
- [Thiamine 50mg/ml injection \(Unlic\)](#) added with **red** tl to cover Pabrinex shortage.
- Two [peptide based ONS](#) added to formulary with **green** tl due to shortages in pancreatic enzyme replacement therapy (PERT). All alternatives in the PERT shortages [guidance](#) are now on BSW formulary.
- [Levobupivacaine 0.125% infusion bag](#) added with **red** tl to help with stock shortages.

### Other amendments to BSW formulary

- Wording amended in [imiquimod entry](#) for Superficial Basal Cell Carcinoma to clarify it can be prescribed *on the recommendation* of a consultant dermatologist or GP with special interest in dermatology for this indication.
- [Fludrocortisone 0.05microgram strength](#) (new lower strength) added as non-formulary as local specialists do not consider it cost-effective.
- Non-formulary status agreed for [glycopyrronium \(hyperhidrosis indication\)](#) due to poor evidence base and high cost.
- BSW [SCA for somatropin for the treatment of growth hormone deficiency in adults](#) updated to reflect current stock situation and ongoing shortages; no clinical update.
- [Paxlovid entry](#) updated to reflect the change in [NICE](#) eligibility for access for Covid patients.

### Extended use of LNG-IUDs for up to 8 years for contraception

As of January 2024, due to the **change in license**, **Mirena®** users can be advised that the device can be kept for 8 years for contraception. This also applies to individuals who already have a device in-situ. In May 2024, the FSRH CEU (Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Health Clinical Effectiveness Unit) convened an expert group who have reviewed the evidence and support extended use of any 52mg LNG-IUD for up to eight years for contraception if the user is under 45 years old at the time of insertion (including Mirena®, Levosert®, Benilexa®). It should be noted that use of Benilexa® and Levosert® for eight years is off-label and prescribers should follow recommendations as set out in [MHRA](#) and [GMC guidance](#) and the recently updated FSRH Service Standards for Medicines Management found [here](#). See the FSRH CEU Statement: [Extended use of all 52mg LNG-IUDs for up to eight years for contraception](#)

### [Medicines Optimisation website](#)

#### New documents

Deprescribing – useful tools  
[Deprescribing-useful-tools.pdf](#)

BSW Prescribing 2024-25 Savings  
Recommendations Prescribe Well – Spend Less [PWSL](#)

### ££££££££ Cost Saving drug switch of the month -Desmopressin 100microgram tablets switching to DDAVP brand ££££££££

In the past 12 months practices across BSW ICB have spent **over £80k on Desmopressin 100microgram tablets**. By prescribing as **DDAVP**, there are savings of **up to £30k** each year. A saving only applies to the 100mcg strength.

Please check the relevant SmPCs before switching, as licensed indications do vary between products.

[Desmopressin acetate 100 microgram Tablet - Summary of Product Characteristics \(SmPC\) - \(emc\) \(medicines.org.uk\)](#)

[DDAVP Tablets 0.1mg - Summary of Product Characteristics \(SmPC\) - \(emc\) \(medicines.org.uk\)](#)

Product	Pack size	Cost
DDAVP 0.1mg tablets	90	£44.12
Desmopressin 100microgram tablets	90	£70.36

**NB** -remember to submit the cost savings recording template which accompanied your practice quarterly report to [bswicb.prescribing@nhs.net](mailto:bswicb.prescribing@nhs.net). Pharmacy technician support can be offered on a first come first served basis. Please **do not delay making contact** if your practice is wishing for support to achieve 2024-25 cost savings.

### Insulin **Safety Week 2024** Recording Links

To highlight the importance of safe and effective care for people living with Diabetes, WHC Diabetes Specialist nurses supported **Insulin Safety Week 2024**. [insulin safety week -online resource pack](#)

please find links to bitesize learning recordings here

Day 1: <https://youtu.be/AcxV8rscJ20> -Insulin Profiles

Day 2 -<https://youtu.be/urZWczQ8AHs>- Concentrated insulins

Day 3 [https://youtu.be/LaPYwr\\_Y-dw](https://youtu.be/LaPYwr_Y-dw)- Ketones and sickness

Day 4 <https://youtu.be/ZGeQ1O4psb8>- Safe prescribing and administering

Day 5 -<https://youtu.be/7ZTPtBJZSf8>- injection technique

### Topiramate: Introduction of a **pregnancy prevention programme**

[The June Drug Safety Update](#) announced the introduction of a new Pregnancy Prevention Programme (PPP) for **topiramate**. Together with local stakeholders we have developed a memo for general practice covering initial steps for implementation of the NEW topiramate Pregnancy Prevention Programme. It can be found [here](#)

## Medicine Shortages – Local tips for practices and Community Pharmacies

BSW ICB and Community Pharmacy England recognise that these are unprecedented times with stock shortages, and the increased workload that it has for our GP practices and community pharmacy teams.

CPE produced guidance for Community Pharmacies to follow to enable them to reduce the need for returning the patient to the GP to provide a new prescription, see [processes](#).

There are some practical steps that pharmacy contractors and their teams can take to help manage the situation: see full information here - [BSW Medicines Shortages - Local tips](#)

## Appliance Champions, Queries and Concerns

Many thanks to those who have already nominated an Appliance Champion for their practice. As a reminder, in the last edition, we invited 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 Morgan - Appliance Assistant - will support this network with training opportunities, providing advice and signposting, via the BSW Prescribing Inbox. To register your interest please contact [bswibc.prescribing@nhs.net](mailto:bswibc.prescribing@nhs.net).

**Please do read the special addition Appliance Newsletter for information about the new BSW Continence Formulary, updated Stoma Guidance and information on the Wound Care Management Group, available [here](#).**

## Epimax Ointment and Paraffin-Free Ointment: reports of ocular surface toxicity and ocular chemical injury.

[The July Drug Safety Update](#) reports that Epimax Ointment and Epimax Paraffin-Free Ointment can harm the eyes if used on the face. They should not be prescribed for use on the face. **Patients should be advised to wash their hands and avoid touching their eyes after use.**

## Bath, Swindon and Wiltshire Wound Care Management Group (BSW WCMG)

BSW WCMG is a group designed to standardise the use of wound care products across our integrated care system. The group meets monthly and works with BSW Acute Hospital Alliance Procurement Services in order to ensure that only clinically effective products that have been evaluated are in use. The group is made up of specialist Tissue Viability Nurses representing primary, community and secondary care, as well as commissioners and procurement colleagues. This joint venture across the care system recognises the needs of different sectors and the impact that dressing choice in one sector can have on the others.

All products are evaluated against a number of clinical criteria, for example, quality of dressings, ease of use, fitness for purpose, patient experience and outcomes, clinical evidence, as well as place in treatment pathways and cost. The outcome is our joint BSW Wound Care formulary that you can find [here](#). Please follow the relevant formulary for your locality ([BaNES Wound Care Formulary](#), [Wiltshire Wound Care Formulary](#), [Swindon Wound Care Formulary](#)) Wherever possible, please buy your wound care products via the relevant direct supply route [Formeo \(formeo-online.co.uk\)](#) (for Wilts and BaNES) or ([ONPOS - Online Non Prescription Ordering Service](#)) (for Swindon).

## BSW ICB does NOT support routine prescribing of dessert-style ONS

Every year we spend >250k on dessert-style oral nutritional supplements. Our new [Position Statement](#) sets out specific criteria which must be met before dessert-style supplements (such as Nutricrem, Forticrem, Ensure Plus Crem etc) are prescribed:

1. The patient has been assessed as being at high risk of malnutrition using the MUST screening tool AND
2. Has been assessed by a Speech and Language therapist as having dysphagia and therefore more cost effective ONS may not be appropriate AND
3. They have been recommended by a dietitian with clear justification and a plan

Details on alternative **shop bought puddings** are included in the [document](#). For any queries contact [bswibc.prescribingsupportdietitians@nhs.net](mailto:bswibc.prescribingsupportdietitians@nhs.net)

## Tirzepatide (Mounjaro®) -prescribing criteria

After several queries, we remind all colleagues that tirzepatide (Mounjaro®) is ONLY included for NHS prescribing across BSW for Type 2 diabetes (T2D) in patients meeting the criteria in [NICE TA924](#):

*Tirzepatide is recommended for **treating type 2 diabetes** alongside diet and exercise in adults when it is insufficiently controlled **only if**:*

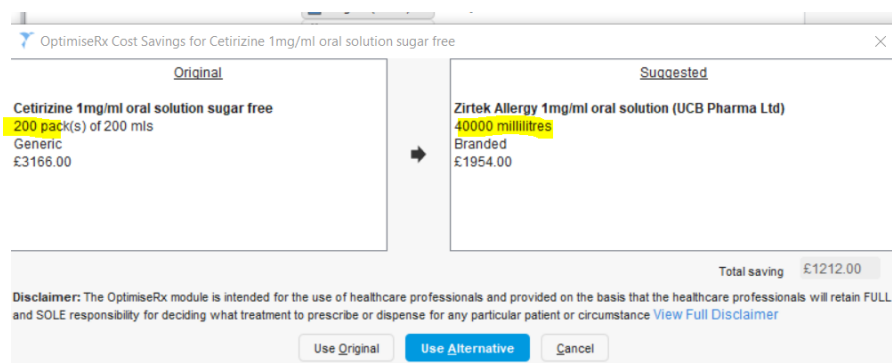
- triple therapy with metformin and 2 other oral antidiabetic drugs is ineffective, not tolerated or contraindicated, and
- they have a body mass index (BMI) of 35 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or more, and specific psychological or other medical problems associated with obesity, or
- they have a BMI of less than 35 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, and:
  - insulin therapy would have significant occupational implications, or
  - weight loss would benefit other significant obesity-related complications.

*Use lower BMI thresholds (usually reduced by 2.5 kg/m<sup>2</sup>) for people from South Asian, Chinese, other Asian, Middle Eastern, Black African or African-Caribbean family backgrounds.*

Tirzepatide for T2D has a **GREEN TLS** and can be initiated by any competent prescriber. Local guidelines for glucose management in adults with T2D available via [BSW-Glucose-Management-in-Adults-with-Type-2-Diabetes-with-Tirzepatide-Feb24-FINAL.pdf \(bswtogether.org.uk\)](#)

**Tirzepatide (Mounjaro®) is NOT included on formulary for weight loss for patients that don't meet the criteria in TA924.** NICE are currently appraising tirzepatide for use in obesity/overweight indications and recommendations are expected in October 2024 after which our formulary will be updated. Until then, **we ask practices to scrutinise requests for initiating tirzepatide and email [bswibc.prescribing@nhs.net](mailto:bswibc.prescribing@nhs.net) for advice if unsure of eligibility.**

## Ardens template / optimise message anomaly



We have been made aware that there are some anomalies within Arden's templates that affect Optimise cost savings messages such as the example shown. Systmone and Optimise are aware and are working to correct the anomaly. Meanwhile please continue to use the template and accept the cost savings message as the cost savings associated with the switch is correct at point of prescribing.