

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 (TLS)

- [Parecoxib 40mg powder for solution for injection](#) - Added with a **RED** TLS as an alternative parenteral NSAID analgesic for palliative care patients under specialist supervision.
- [Esomeprazole 40mg powder for solution for injection](#) Added with a **RED** TLS for (off-label) subcutaneous use on the recommendation of palliative care specialist where PPI is necessary for symptomatic treatment and where oral access is unavailable.
- [Rimegepant](#) and [atogepant](#) for migraine prevention – TLS changed from **RED** to **AMBER** to allow prescribing to be taken over by GP's following specialist initiation. Also see [BSW Chronic Migraine Prevention Pathway](#)

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

- **UPDATE** – [BSW SCA Riluzole for adults](#) – Orodispersible film formulation added to SCA which presents a cost saving in primary care. Orodispersible film is first line on BSW formulary and patients in primary care being prescribed tablets can be switched to Orodispersible film. Do not switch patients using riluzole liquid without seeking specialist advice.
- **UPDATE** – [BSW SCA Valproate for women of childbearing potential](#) – Updated to include information **relating to male patients** included in response to [September 2024 MHRA DSU Valproate Use in Men](#). Also see the BSW Together Valproate Safety Group webpage which hosts links to local and national resources that support safe valproate prescribing in existing and new patients: [Valproate Safety - Medicines](#).
- **New format** – [BSW Primary Care Guidelines for Pharmacological Management of Vitamin B12 Deficiency in Adults](#) – Updated and reformatted **B12 guidance**.
- **Minor amendments to Netformulary**  
A stoma leakage notification system ([Heylo®](#)) added as non-formulary.
- Use of [Miprosed® \(midazolam 5mg/ml oral solution\)](#) extended to include procedural sedation or premed in needle-phobic adults (off-label) **RED** TLS GWH anaesthetists use only
- [Heparin](#) for therapeutic treatment of VTE has been aligned with a **RED** TLS for BSW.
- Furosemide tablet **500mg** strength aligned with **RED** TLS for BSW.

### What the BSW ICB formulary team are currently working on

- Writing a hypersalivation/drooling treatment pathway
- Reviewing position of daily Tadalafil 5mg
- Producing guidance for linzagolix [NICE TA996](#) for uterine fibroids
- Producing guidance for relugolix [NICE TA995](#) for prostate cancer
- Reviewing glaucoma guidance

### LHRH analogues in prostate cancer

Local specialists support the use of **Decapeptyl SR 22.5mg (Triptorelin)** for prostate cancer indications, which requires **only 6 monthly intramuscular administration** compared to Prostag and Zoladex (4 or 12 weekly). Switching LHRH analogue will **reduce the number of patient contacts, for both the patient and practice convenience**. There is also a **financial saving** associated (**approximately £175k across BSW practices**).

#### GnRH Analogue Injection

[home](#)



1. PRESCRIBE	Drug	Regimen	then:	Regimen	Manufacturer
	Degarelix	240mg sc loading		80mg sc monthly	Firmagon
	Goserelin	3.6mg sc monthly		10.8mg sc 3 monthly	Zoladex
	Leuprorelin	3.75mg im/sc monthly		11.25mg im/sc 3 monthly	Prostag Staladex
		11.25mg sc 3 monthly			
	<b>Triptorelin</b>	3mg im monthly		11.25mg im 3 monthly	Decapeptyl
		3.75mg im/sc monthly		<b>22.5mg im 6 monthly</b>	Gonapeptyl

#### Considerations:

- Decapeptyl SR 22.5mg requires reconstitution by suitably trained staff, in comparison to preparations in a prefilled syringes.
- Subcutaneously administered preparations may be preferred in anticoagulated individuals.

Further information can be found in the local BSW guidance and PrescQIPP bulletin, and a SystemOne search is available to facilitate identification of patients.

[BSW ICB Managing male patients with prostate cancer on LHRH analogues LHRH agonists 2.0.pdf](#) (PrescQIPP login required)

**S1 search:** Reporting > Clinical reporting > BSW General Practice > Medicine Optimisation Team > Cost Saving > LHRH Analogue - switch to Decapeptyl SR 22.5mg (Prostate Ca only, in line with BSW guidance). Saves £69-152/year (+less appointments)

### Live Well with Pain – Improving the Wellbeing of those Living with Chronic Pain

Across BSW ICS 93 healthcare professionals including social prescribers, health coaches, pharmacy professionals, GPs and physiotherapists have completed the Live well with Pain 10 Footsteps Training. Live Well with Pain aims to provide support for people living with chronic pain to learn an improved approach and the skills for better self-management. This means they become more empowered and equipped to manage their chronic pain and may feel able to start reducing their use of long-term opioids. For healthcare professional, using the Live Well with Pain 10 Footsteps approach can transform consultations that often feel hopeless into something more productive and enjoyable. Find out more about Live Well with Pain [here](#) and the 10 Footsteps approach [here](#).

Watch this short [video](#) to hear how a local Clinical Pharmacist and Social Prescriber from Hope House Surgery in Radstock have put learning into practice and created a Pain Café. The Café Provides an opportunity for people living with chronic pain to create a support network and aims to reduce appointments needed with clinicians. Pain Cafés are an increasingly popular offer across the country providing support for this frequently overlooked group of people as the model of care shifts to a biopsychosocial approach.

**October's MHRA Drug Safety Update is available [here](#).**

**GLP1- receptor agonists: potential side effects, misuse and falsified products.**

The DSU details concerns about GLP1 receptor agonists, including the risk of potential side effects, misuse potential and potential falsified products supplied from unauthorised services. Report suspected issues to [The Yellow Card Scheme](#)

**Bromocriptine: monitor blood pressure when prescribing bromocriptine for prevention or inhibition of post-partum physiological lactation**

The DSU highlights that blood pressure monitoring of patients prescribed bromocriptine is essential especially during the first days of treatment. *It should NOT be used for routine suppression of lactation or for relieving symptoms of postpartum breast pain and engorgement.* Bromocriptine should only be used under advice of a specialist and second line to cabergoline in the limited cases where suppression of post-partum lactation is medically indicated. It is contraindicated in any severe cardiovascular conditions, coronary artery disease, uncontrolled hypertension or hypertensive disorder of pregnancy or postpartum.

**[Medicines Optimisation website](#)**

**New documents**

MOP UP AMR Special Edition - November 2024- [AMR Special Edition MOP UP](#)

**Safety Advice for Men Prescribed Valproate-**[Memo – Precautionary Safety Advice for Men](#)

[Prescribed Valproate](#)

**Updated documents**

Healthy Living (BaNES)-<https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/healthy-living>

Healthy Lifestyle Services (Swindon)-[Healthy Lifestyle Services \(Swindon\)](#)

Website – List of Rebates-[BSW -list of rebates](#)

**Improving Medicines & Polypharmacy Appropriateness Clinical Tool-IMPACT -PreScQIPP**

**How to record specialist prescribed drugs -[How to record specialist prescribed drugs](#)**

**Valproate PI for LD and autism:- [Patient Information and Resources for People with Autism and](#)**

[Learning Disabilities](#)

**With the additional documents:-**

What should I say – an **Educational Resource for Autism or Learning Difficulty-** [Educational](#)

[resource for Autism or LD](#)

**Valproate Review Appointment Form-** [Valproate review appointment form](#)

**Appliances - Did you Know?**

When issuing catheters - any Leg/ night bag any can be issued for compatibility. The only time a patient may require a different Leg/Night bag would be a personal preference. i.e Size or capacity

**Leg bags** could be length of tube – Long 30cm or short 10cm - 500ml is a standard issue Leg bag.

**Night bags** could be capacity - 2 litre (standard use), always issue Single use -(these are drainable but have a non-return lever or slide tap) rather than drainable night bags. You will be able to tell the difference on these by the cost. Drainable night bags range from £12 upwards x10, whereas single use start from £3-6 x10. See also -[BSW Continence and Urology Products Formulary](#)

For any questions, please contact Jackie at


[bswicb.prescribing@nhs.net](mailto:bswicb.prescribing@nhs.net)

**££££££££ Cost Saving drug switch of the month - Venlafaxine XL 150mg capsules switching to Vencarm XL ££££££££**

Product	Pack size	Cost
Vencarm XL 150mg capsules	28	£3.89
Venlafaxine 150mg modified-release capsules	28	£9.95
Efexor XL 150mg capsules	28	£36.81
Vensir XL 150mg capsules	29	£9.95

Due to an increase in the drug tariff price, the spend for generic venlafaxine 150mg MR capsules is projected to increase to over £90k over the next 12 months. By prescribing as **Vencarm XL brand**, there are savings available of **approximately £55k across BSW ICB.**

**Precautionary Safety Advice for Men Prescribed Valproate**

Potential risks in Men:  **AMBER** As a precaution, men prescribed valproate and their partners should use effective contraception and those planning a family within the next year should speak to a healthcare professional about their treatment options September 2024 Drug Safety Update. Valproate may cause infertility in men. Some toxic effects on the testes (testicles) have been observed in animals; it is unclear what it means for humans. A meta-analysis of pooled retrospective observational data showed a risk of neurodevelopmental disorder in children born to males prescribed valproate ranging from 4.0% to 5.6% in the valproate treated group vs. 2.3% to 3.2% in the composite lamotrigine/levetiracetam monotherapy treated group (pooled adjusted hazard ratio 1.50, 95% CI 1.09 to 2.07). There was no untreated group, so background risk is not established. This potential risk is much lower than the up to 30-40% risk of neurodevelopmental disorders in children born to mothers taking valproate during pregnancy, estimated from several studies. For comprehensive information on risks [view the Nov 2023 Public Assessment Report](#)

The **BSW Together Valproate Safety Group** have produced a webpage to host links to local and national resources that support safe valproate prescribing in existing and new patients [Valproate Safety - Medicines](#) which includes **Local resources to support Valproate safety in male patients:-** [Memo - Precautionary Safety Advice for Men Prescribed Valproate](#)

**No one should stop taking valproate without advice from their healthcare professional.**

**Salazopyrin debranded**

Pfizer Limited will commence the **supply of Sulfasalazine**, a generic version of **Salazopyrin® Tablet, Salazopyrin Enteric Coated Tablet and Salazopyrin Suppository**. They will continue to offer both the branded and generic presentations, for a short period of transition, after which **the brand will no longer be routinely available**. Patients who are prescribed **Salazopyrin will need to be switched** to generic prescriptions of sulfasalazine to ensure continued supply going forward.

A **S1 search** has been created to identify patients found here – Reporting > BSW General Practice > Medicine Optimisation Team > Cost saving > 5.3 - Salazopyrin - prescribe generically (sulfasalazine) due to debranding.

Orders: The new product will be distributed in the same way via **Alliance ordering systems**, please use PIP codes in table below-

Product (NEW)	EAN Code	Pip Code	NHS List Price
SULFASALAZINE 500MG Tablet Uncoated 1x112 Plastic Bottle	5415062113400	127-6856	£6.97
SULFASALAZINE 500MG Tablet Enteric Coated 1x112 Plastic Bottle	5415062113394	127-6849	£8.43
SULFASALAZINE 500MG Suppository Rectal 1X10 PMLD	5415062116791	127-6872	£3.30