

NHS BSW CCG Medicines Optimisation Team: ✉ [bswccg.prescribing@nhs.net](mailto:bswccg.prescribing@nhs.net)  
Website: <https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/>

## ACTIONS this month:-

- Continue to issue ALL repeat prescriptions as normal
- Review LHRH process in your practice and consider new local guidance
- World Antimicrobial Awareness Week 18<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> November
- Emergency Steroid Card Resources now available

## Repeat Prescriptions During Lockdown and Brexit Negotiations

It's likely that a large number of patients are feeling nervous and trying to get extra supplies of medicines in preparation for the weeks to come. Oversupply of medicines through requests for larger quantities, or requests that are earlier than normal will lead to medicines waste, supply issues and excessive burden on local pharmacies.

**To reduce potential pressure on community pharmacies, the medicines supply chain and medicines waste, GP practices are asked to ensure they have robust repeat prescription processes and all staff issuing prescriptions:**

- Reassure patients that the GP surgeries & pharmacies will continue to work as they are essential services
- Advise patients to request and take their medicines as normal
- Do not increase the quantities of medicines prescribed or ask for prescriptions to be expedited just on the basis of "lockdown or Brexit"
- Challenge requests for prescriptions when the information within the clinical system medicines record (SystemOne/EMIS) suggests patient should have enough
- Reassure patients if their next order is due during Christmas, they will be able to order sooner than that in December
- For GP practices who have an existing system for electronic repeat dispensing eRD ('batch prescribing') continue to offer this to suitable patients, without increasing quantities of medicines supplied

**ACTION: Please continue to issue repeat prescriptions as normal and reassure patients.**

## BSW Area Prescribing Committee (APC) Updates

The [BSW APC website](#) includes information on the APC and the formulary decision making process. Decisions from the first APC meeting (Sept 2020) have been ratified and can be found in full [here](#). Of particular note:

- **Updated - SCA for treatment of Alzheimer's disease: donepezil, rivastigmine, galantamine, memantine.** This presents no change in current practice for BaNES GPs. Wiltshire GPs will see a change in Traffic Light Status (TLS) for memantine from Red to Amber allowing timely initiation of combination therapy in acute scenarios (e.g. violent/aggressive patients) after a telephone consultation with the specialist. In Swindon prescribing remains with the specialist memory clinic. SCA [here](#)
- **New - Local guidance on managing patients with prostate cancer on LHRH analogues during pandemic.** Guidance recommends considering a switch to 6-monthly 22.5mg triptorelin (Decapeptyl) IM injection for patients at high risk of Covid to reduce face to face appointments. This is also a **cost-effective** switch. IM injection may not be the best option for anticoagulated patients who are better suited to receive SC injections. A search template has been created for practices to identify high risk patients receiving more frequent injections. Full guidance with details of Ardens/TPP search [here](#)

**ACTION: Add BSW APC and the BSW formulary websites to your favourites or as shortcuts on your desktop/laptop for ease of access. Switch existing patients to triptorelin SR 22.5mg if appropriate.**

## World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) 18-24<sup>th</sup> November

A [resources toolkit](#) for healthcare professionals has been published by PHE. Raising awareness of the risks of antimicrobial resistance remains important but a scaled back approach has been adopted in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

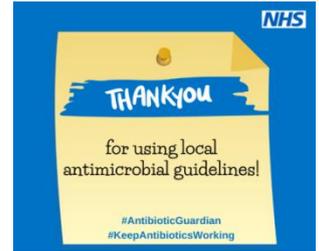
### Key Actions for those with limited time

#### **As an individual:**

- Choose a new or renew your pledge on the [Antibiotic Guardian website](#) and encourage five other people to do the same

#### **As a team:**

- Share the [WAAW digital resources](#) for healthcare workers in your organisation and promote antibiotics awareness



**ACTION: Discuss what actions your practice will take to promote WAAW**

### BSW PCN/Practice Pharmacist Upcoming Webinars

Date/time	Planned Topics
11th November, 1.30pm	PCN Network Contract DES - Antimicrobial Stewardship Prescribing: Top Tips to make the most out of TPP, AccuRx and OptimiseRx
9 <sup>th</sup> December, 1.30pm	BSW Prescription Ordering Direct (POD) Service: Meet the team and learn more about it

Slides from the previous webinars are available in the 'Training and Education' tab on our website here: <https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/training-and-education>.

### Safety Updates October 2020

- [MHRA guidance](#) has been published regarding the monitoring of patients taking warfarin or DOACs during the COVID-19 pandemic following reports of supratherapeutic anticoagulation by King's College Hospital.
- Following Medicines Safety Week 2-8 November and #every report counts here is a reminder of all the different ways a yellow card can be reported for suspected adverse drug reactions.
  - on the [Yellow Card website](#)
  - via the mobile app from the [Google Play Store](#) or [Apple App Store](#)
  - in some clinical IT systems for healthcare professionals (EMIS, SystmOne)
    - via freephone (0800 731 6789, 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday).
- Steroid Emergency Card resources have been created to help identify eligible patients and sent to practices via e-mail. PrescQIPP are also due to publish some guidance in the New Year.

### Website Updates

NHSE Self-care & OTC Guidance for Prescribers	<a href="https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=5292">https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=5292</a>
BSW CCG NMP Registration Form	<a href="https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=6126">https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=6126</a>
Sharps Disposal and Prescribing Sharps Bin on FP10	<a href="https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=8098">https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=8098</a>