

To contact NHS BSW CCG Medicines Optimisation Team: ✉ bswccg.prescribing@nhs.net
Website: <https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/>

Suspension of the Prescribing Incentive Scheme

The CCG has suspended the prescribing incentive scheme for 20/21 to free up practice capacity to deliver vaccinations. All practices have been notified via e-mail to practice managers.

To further support vaccination roll out, the CCG Medicines Optimisation team has redeployed pharmacists and technicians to support the PCN sites that have gone live already, and we will escalate this support over the coming weeks.

COVID Vaccination Information

With current and foreseeable focus on delivering COVID vaccination, resources and guidance to support the vaccine rollout are rapidly evolving.

Key information can be found within the following sites:

[COVID-19 Vaccines – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice Coronavirus » COVID-19 vaccination programme \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)

If you're not already signed up to Specialist Pharmacy Services (SPS), signing up and ticking to opt to receive updates from SPS here [Register – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice](#) will deliver the 'Weekly SPS COVID 19 Vaccine Update' to your inbox.

A huge thank-you for all everyone is doing to support the roll-out of this vaccination programme.

BSW Area Prescribing Committee (APC) Updates

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

- [Omeprazole 4mg/ml suspension](#) (Rosemont) included **ONLY** for use following specialist recommendation for paediatric patients <1 year of age or <10kg whereby dispersible tabs/esomeprazole sachets are not appropriate (i.e. prescribed dose under 5mg or feeding tube in situ) AMBER TLS. **Omeprazole suspension is NOT included on the formulary for use outside this cohort** ([see here](#)).
- [Cyanocobalamin 1mg tablets](#) (Orabalin®) Newly licensed high-dose oral cyanocobalamin added with GREEN TLS. Use **ONLY** as per BSW guidance on B12 supplements during Covid pandemic [here](#).
- [Oral Nutrition Supplements](#) (sip feeds). This updated BSW guidance outlines first line and specialist supplements suitable for prescribing by GP's, Nurses and Dietitians with costs and appropriate quantities. Formulary entries have been updated [here](#).
- [BSW Domperidone prescribing guidance](#). This update incorporates aligned TLS and MHRA safety information.

The Jan APC meeting is not going ahead due to operational pressures but urgent Covid related formulary decisions may be agreed virtually by the committee and we will communicate these via the formulary and APC websites as usual.

Recording hospital drugs on clinical systems in primary care

It is important that long-term medication prescribed by secondary care or another provider is recorded in the patient's notes to provide a complete record of what prescribed medication the patient is currently taking. This will enable prescribers to make safer prescribing decisions and support AHP's to carry out medication reviews. We have produced a [step-by-step guide](#) of how to do this in SystemOne and EmisWeb. We are aware there is an alternative way in SystemOne as detailed [here](#) which also explains the pros and cons for each method.

ACTION: Please adopt a methodology and review current processes for recording these medications.

BSW PCN/Practice Pharmacist Upcoming Webinars

*Please note the January webinar was cancelled and future webinars have been postponed until further notice.
Here is a reminder of the remaining scheduled topics*

Date/time	Planned Topics
TBC	Prescribing Incentive Scheme: Anticholinergic Burden Answering questions about medicines in practice – what resources are available? (with SWMI - Medicines Information)
TBC	BSW Cow's Milk Protein Allergy prescribing guide Oral Nutrition Formulary – Tools and Tips to improve your prescribing of 'sip feeds'

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>.

Discharge Medicines Service (DMS) Community pharmacy

This will become an essential service for community pharmacies from 15th February 2021. NHS Trusts will be able to refer patients who would benefit from extra guidance around newly prescribed medicines. This service will provide an opportunity for more cross-sector working and does not replace the important work GP practices do to manage and reconcile patients' medications following discharge. Further information can be found [here](#) for primary care teams.

Safety Updates December 2020

Lamotrigine and Levetiracetam have been found to be the safer of the antiepileptics for use during pregnancy following a recent [safety review](#). Clinicians should use this information when discussing treatment options with women planning to become pregnant, at routine annual reviews and at initiation.

Cancard (Cannabis Card)

We are aware of occasions where GP's have been contacted by [Cancard](#) asking them to confirm diagnoses for a condition that requires a patient to be on Cannabis-based products for medicinal use (CBPM) to authorise the issue of a Cancard. Please be aware that the DHSC and Home Office are quite clear that they do not endorse and/or support this initiative. Advice is that GP's should not be authorising these requests from Cancard as this may lead to imparting information which may then be used to legitimise what may be an illicit supply of a cannabis (Class B) containing product. GP's should instead be asking Cancard to contact the initiating prescriber of the CBMP for confirmation. Patients requiring (CBPM) are usually referred into a specialist service that assess the patient and prescribe CBPM in line with NICE guidelines NG144 Cannabis-based medicinal products in line with The Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2018 in order for there to be lawful possession.

Website Updates

Insulin: quantities, doses and frequency of supply

<https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=4702>

RED drugs - GP letter to specialist

<https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=4602>