

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

BSW PCN/Practice Pharmacist Webinars are still postponed as the Meds Opt Team continue to support the COVID Vaccination programme. A reminder that although the Prescribing Incentive Scheme for 20/21 has been suspended, the [IIF Prescribing Indicators](#) are still active.

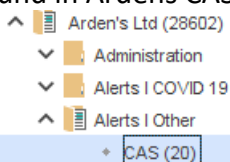
There are Ardens searches available to support practices which can be found here:
Clinical Reporting/Ardens Ltd/Contracts Current financial year PCN DES/2020-21 – 2020-21 IIF: Prescribing.

Discontinuation of Phyllocontin (Aminophylline)

Napp Pharmaceuticals Ltd are the sole suppliers of oral aminophylline. They have discontinued Phyllocontin® Continus 225mg and Phyllocontin® Forte Continus 350mg modified-release tablets. Remaining supplies of the 225mg strength are expected to be exhausted by **2nd March 2021** and the 350mg strength are expected to be exhausted by **5th April 2021**.

Prescribers will need to review all affected patients and optimise inhaled therapies. Patients, who still require a methylxanthine, will need to be switched to theophylline tablets (Uniphyllin Continus®). Therapeutic drug level monitoring of theophylline should be undertaken when patients are switched from aminophylline to theophylline- for advice on blood tests see Monitoring section in [guidance](#).

An Arden's search has been created to identify any patients prescribed Phyllocontin on repeat and can be found in Ardens CAS Alerts folder-



Action: Review patients currently prescribed Phyllocontin in your practice

Freestyle Libre 2

- The new Freestyle Libre 2 sensor has the added feature of real-time glucose alarms to notify people if glucose goes too low or too high.
- To manage workload & product supply, Freestyle Libre 2 will be offered to patients who meet the [NHSE eligibility criteria](#) for Flash at their **next routine appointment with their specialist diabetic healthcare professional**. In the current climate, we respectfully request that people wait until their next routine appointment with their specialist in 2021 to enquire about the FreeStyle Libre 2 system.
- Specialist diabetes teams will support people to use the new features included in Freestyle Libre 2 system to better manage their diabetes by supplying an information booklet and signposting to New Starter Clinic online education and support and will supply those using the old Freestyle Libre scanning device with a new Freestyle Libre 2 scanner. People using the Flash App should check that it is updated to the latest version (version 2.5 or above). Details on device compatibility can be found in the compatibility guide on the Abbott website.

BSW Area Prescribing Committee (APC) Updates

The [BSW APC website](#) includes information on the APC and the formulary decision making process. Decisions from December and January meetings have been ratified and can be found in full [here](#). Some key changes:

- [ORAL Semaglutide 3mg, 7mg, 14mg tablets \(Rybelsus®\)](#) added for the treatment of adults with insufficiently controlled T2DM. **Amber TLS**. Rybelsus® is unique in that it is the **first oral GLP1 receptor agonist**. It has very specific administration requirements and should be taken on an empty stomach, swallowed whole with ≤120ml of water (preferably a sip), and no food, drink or other oral medicines should be taken for up to 30 mins. **Prescribe in line with [BSW Rybelsus prescribing guidance](#)**.
- NEW SCA: [Sildenafil for Digital Ulceration and Severe Raynaud's](#) (unlic. indication) moved from RED TLS to **Amber w SCA**. Sildenafil remains GREEN TLS for the licensed indication of erectile dysfunction.
- UPDATED SCA: DMARDs used for Rheumatology and Dermatology indications at GWH have been brought into an established RUH/SFT Shared Care Agreement. [BSW Summary of Shared Care Guidelines and Monitoring of DMARDs in Adults: Rheumatology, Dermatology & Gastroenterology](#).
- Updated - BSW Management of Infections in Primary Care, [Full Guideline](#); [Quick Ref Guide adults](#); [Quick Ref Guide children](#) incorporates human and animal bite guidance as per NICE NG184.
- Updated - [BSW guidance on B12 supplements during COVID pandemic](#) includes newly licensed 1mg cyanocobalamin oral tablets (Orobalin).
New - [BSW Investigation, treatment and review of Vitamin B12 \(cobalamin\) deficiency](#) adapted for BSW from a historic BCAP document and includes information on appropriate deprescribing.

Oral Nutritional Supplements (ONS) Formulary Update

The [ONS Formulary for Primary Care](#) has been updated with the following key points:

- Addition of Foodlink Complete Compact as *first line* COMPACT product
- Addition of a powdered *first line* juice-base supplement, Aymes Actasolve Smoothie, for patients unable to tolerate milk.
- **IDDSI levels** (dysphagia levels) have been removed from the formulary guidance. Most companies are only providing an 'indication' of the IDDSI level for products which have been found to have the same IDDSI level both at room temperature and when chilled.
- Patients with dysphagia should **ALWAYS** be referred to Dietitians for assessment if ONS are being considered.

Safety Updates

A recent [CAS Alert](#) confirmed that Azithromycin and Doxycycline should not be used in primary care to treat patients with COVID-19 due to a lack of beneficial effect. Only consider these antibiotics if there are additional indications for which its use remains appropriate.

Healthcare professionals and patients are reminded to report suspected side-effects to medicines and vaccines used in coronavirus treatment using the [Coronavirus Yellow Card Reporting site](#) or via the Yellowcard App. This will help gather valuable evidence to inform decisions on the safe and effective use of medicines as the pandemic evolves. A weekly summary is published of reports received and can be found [here](#).

Steroid Emergency Card Alert

PrescQIPP have issued a [Hot Topic](#) to support practices to implement this alert. It includes detailed guidance regarding topical and inhaled corticosteroids with searches for clinical systems to follow shortly.

It is also worth noting that further guidance by the Society for Endocrinology, SPS and British Association of Dermatology is also close to publication which will also help clarify who requires a card and what cohorts of patients are at risk of AI from exogenous steroids.

Website Updates

BSW MOCH Newsletter – Jan 2021 Vitamin D Special

<https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=8367>

This newsletter represents what is known at the time of writing so information may be subsequently superseded. Please contact the Medicines Optimisation Teams with comments/feedback or information for inclusion. This newsletter is aimed at healthcare professionals working within BSW.

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