

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

BSW PCN/Practice Pharmacist Webinars are still postponed as the Meds Opt Team continues 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.

### Soprobeccolour Change

Glenmark have issued communication of a change in the colours of the plastic actuator and protective cap of Soprobeccol 200 micrograms inhaler; this is an equivalent to Clenil and many patients have been using it since the supply issues with Clenil last year.

The Healthcare Professional Communication is available here: [Soprobeccol - HCP DHCL letter](#)

### BSW Area Prescribing Committee (APC) Updates

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

- [LIRAGLUTIDE 6mg/ml pre-filled injection \(Saxenda®\) for managing overweight and obesity](#). Saxenda is recommended by NICE as an option for managing overweight and obesity alongside a reduced-calorie diet and increased physical activity in adults who meet specific weight criteria and have a high risk of cardiovascular disease as defined in [NICE TA664](#). It must be prescribed in secondary care by a specialist MDT tier 3 weight management service in order to access the PAS discount. **RED Traffic Light**.
- [BSW Summary of Shared Care Guidelines and Monitoring of Disease Modifying Drugs \(DMARDs\) in Adults](#)  
This guideline has been updated to include supportive information (dosing, licensing, useful references and specialist contact details) for GPs where azathioprine, methotrexate and mycophenolate are prescribed for neurology indications. Additionally, the update includes contact details for a dermatology specialist commissioned by BSWCCG to provide services from The Spa Medical Centre (SMC), Wiltshire. Where methotrexate is used for dermatology indications here, inclusion in this agreement formalises the sharing of care between SMC and the GP.
- **Updated** BSW Guidance - [Treatment of Vit D deficiency in adults](#). Please also see [MOCH Jan 2021 newsletter](#) for information about Vit D in care homes

### Interested in an introduction to Leadership development?

PrescQIPP Leadership Academy are offering a series of 12 bitesize 'Leadership at Lunch' webinars delivered by a Leadership expert, and free to all members of the PrescQIPP community, including PCN based pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. Complete the 12 sessions and a short test to receive a certificate. Find out more by visiting <https://www.prescqipp.info/learning/skills-courses/leadership-at-lunch/>

## Is your practice an outlier for Hydroxocobalamin Prescribing?

BSW CCG is the one of the highest prescribers of Hydroxocobalamin in England. Practices with high prescribing are encouraged to review their prescribing and consider de-prescribing as appropriate. This will free up nursing time, reduce footfall in practices as well as reduce costs.

Comparative prescribing data, a template letter and clinical system searches have been produced to support practices to review their prescribing and can be found [here](#) on the BSW Medicines Optimisation website.

Formulary guidance which includes information on appropriate de-prescribing can be found here [BSW guidance for investigation, treatment and review of vitamin B12 \(cobalamin\) deficiency](#)

## Please remember to tell us about new starters or changes

Please email us to introduce any new pharmacy professionals joining your Primary Care Network team at [bswccg.prescribing@nhs.net](mailto:bswccg.prescribing@nhs.net)

We can ensure they're added to our communications list and welcome them with tailored support, new starter CCG Meds Opt team introduction sessions, invites to our webinars, newsletters etc.

Please also use the same email address to notify us if a different GP is nominated as prescribing GP lead.

## NHS Service Finder

Watch this video to learn about 'NHS Service Finder', an invaluable tool which links you to comprehensive contact details for multiple service pathways.

[New video highlights benefits of NHS Service Finder : PSNC Main site](#)

## Safety Updates

A recent [MHRA Safety Update](#) indicates that pregabalin (*Lyrica*<sup>®</sup>) has been linked with **infrequent reports of severe respiratory depression**, including some cases without the presence of concomitant opioid medicines. The update suggests considering whether adjustments in dose or dosing regimen are necessary for patients at higher risk of respiratory depression. Patients considered at higher risk of this complication include those with **respiratory disease, neurological disease, renal impairment**, those using **concomitant CNS depressants** and people **older than 65 years**. In such patients a more cautious introduction to this medication may be prudent and adjustments in dose or dosing regimen may be necessary.

Given the available data on this risk, including spontaneous reports, and the plausible mechanism of action, the product information for medicines available in the UK will be amended to include new warnings for respiratory depression.

Please continue to report suspected adverse drug reactions associated with use of pregabalin to the [Yellow Card scheme](#).

Steroid Emergency Card update – NHS Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) has published a more detailed [Guidance on issuing the Steroid Emergency Card in adults](#) to facilitate primary and secondary care providers to implement the NHS England and NHS Improvement national patient safety alert. A webinar will be held by SPS to outline the background of this initiative, the development of the card, and what it means for healthcare professionals and patients. For further information and registration address for attendees: [Click Here](#)

## Website Updates

Controlled Drugs information/guidance (link to NHS England website)	<a href="https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=8424">https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=8424</a>
Anticholinergic medications (information leaflet for patients) Print version	<a href="https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=8162">https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=8162</a>
Anticholinergic medications (information leaflet for patients) On-line version	<a href="https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=8164">https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=8164</a>