



Medicines
Optimisation
Update

To contact NHS BSW CCG Medicines Optimisation Team:

✉ bswccg.prescribing@nhs.net

Website: <https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/>

Issue 16

May 2021

BSW Area Prescribing Committee (APC) Updates

The [BSW APC website](#) includes information on the APC and the formulary decision making process. Decisions from the Mar 2021 meeting have been ratified and can be found in full [here](#).

- [Oral Betamethasone 500microgram soluble tablet](#) Existing formulary entry in chapter 6 (endocrine) aligned with AMBER TLS. Additional entry made in chapter 12 (ear, nose and oropharynx) for off-label use as a mouthwash and includes supporting guidance for patient counselling so patients are not exposed to unintentionally high doses of steroids.
- Updated - [BSW CCG Managing male patients with prostate cancer on LHRH analogues during the COVID-19 pandemic](#). Reworded so that the 6 monthly LHRH preparation, Triptorelin pamoate IM (Decapeptyl SR® 22.5mg) is 'an option' rather than 'first line' treatment allowing practices to decide whether they remain with their current processes or access training to offer the 6 monthly IM preparations.

Chloramphenicol eye products in children under 2 years - update

BSW Management of infections in Primary Care [Full guidance](#) and [Childrens – Quick Ref Guide](#) have been updated after consultation with local specialist teams. **Chloramphenicol eye ointment (used off-label and as per local acute trust guidance) is considered first line for severe bacterial conjunctivitis in <2yrs.** Fusidic acid eye drops are included as an option in primary care (licensed in <2yrs) but prescribers should consider the high cost (£35.00/5g May 2021) and concerns over the emergence of microbial resistance.

The SPS website now includes background information [here](#)

Dapagliflozin in Heart Failure

[Dapagliflozin \(Forxiga® 10mg tabs\)](#) has been added to BSW formulary with an AMBER TLS for use in line with [NICE TA679](#) for the treatment of chronic heart failure with reduced ejection fraction.

Guidance for prescribing in primary care has been developed with input from local specialists and can be read in full [here](#). There are important nuances for using dapagliflozin in heart failure (as opposed to diabetes which we are all more familiar with) that prescribers should be aware of, so please ensure all relevant colleagues read the guidance.

Dermatology

With the support of the RUH dermatology team and CCG, the GPs with extended roles (GPers) in the BEMS+ community dermatology clinic will be starting to prescribe oral Isotretinoin for patients with acne who meet the appropriate criteria. The GPs will be following the RUH protocol which has been adapted for use in the community. The prescriptions will be sent to a pharmacy of the patient's choice via EPS, all scripts for female patients will make reference to a pregnancy prevention program (PPP) and the date of the most recent negative pregnancy test. If there are any queries regarding any aspects of this service, please do not hesitate to contact BEMS+ on telephone number 01225 560806 or email bems.adminoffice@nhs.net using Community Isotretinoin clinic as the reference.

Website Updates

The latest edition of the MOCH (Medicines Optimisation in Care Homes) newsletter is now available on the website:

<https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=8524>

Safety and Quality Updates

The recent [MHRA Drug Safety Update](#) indicates a potential harmful interaction between the use of starch-based thickeners (Nutilis powder, Multi-thick, Thick & Easy Original, Thicken Aid, Resource ThickenUp, Thixo D, Vitaquick) and polyethylene glycol (PEG) laxatives (Movicol, Macrogol 3350, Moviprep, Laxido, Cosmocol, Macrogol Compound Sachets). Thickening is reduced by the PEG laxative and therefore concurrent use of the two products can potentially result in a greater risk of aspiration.

This does **NOT** apply to gum-based thickeners (the CLEAR thickeners e.g., Nutilis Clear, Resource ThickenUp Clear, Thick & Easy Clear). Gum-based or clear thickeners are the preferred choice of thickener, however starch-based thickeners are still sometimes prescribed.

Read the full alert [here](#) which includes links to more detailed supporting information from Specialist Pharmacy Services.

A local TPP search has been created to facilitate you to identify patients who have been prescribed starch-based thickeners with the potential risk of co-current use with PEG laxatives; Searches are available under Clinical Reporting> Meds Management Reporting> Meds Optimisation Team 2020 > Prescribing Safety

Please identify patients who are potentially at risk and **discuss with your local Speech and Language Therapist (SALT) team who can review the choice of thickening agent as appropriate. Please do not make changes to thickening agents without the advice of the SALT team.**

Locality SALT Team	Contacts
Swindon:	Tel: 01793605101
Wiltshire:	Tel: 01249 456448 Email: whc.slreferrals@nhs.net
Banes:	Tel: 01225 831 500 Email: vicky.cooper@virginicare.co.uk or BATHNES.AdultSLT@virginicare.co.uk

Incontinence – only applies to Swindon practices

When prescribing catheter maintenance solutions, please be aware that Swindon Community Health Services are only trained to administer OPTIFLO solutions. Only one strength of OPTIFLO solution should be used on patients, there is limited evidence to suggest that combining two different strength solutions is effective. Evidence suggests that 2x 50ml solutions are more effective than 1x 100ml solution. Please be aware that District Nurses will require a P2 to administer catheter maintenance. Please use with caution in patients who have recurrent UTI's/have a history of bladder irritation.

OPTIFLO 0.9% normal saline - to be used for flushing transient debris, not effective against encrustation

OPTIFLO 3.23% citric acid - to be used for dissolving larger, gritty deposits

OPTIFLO 6.0% citric acid - used to cleanse catheter length and manage recurrent/severe encrustation

Please be aware that District Nurses may ask for a prescription of Farco Fill catheter balloon, this is an alternative catheter balloon, used instead of water for inflation, it can be used with ANY catheter. It contains triclosan, an anti-microbial agent which is proven to reduce encrustation within urinary and suprapubic catheters. It is suggested that the catheter is changed after 4 weeks if using this; however, clinical judgement should be used regarding catheter lifespan.

BSW PCN /Practice Pharmacist Upcoming Webinars

We are pleased to let you know that our monthly Webinars are due to resume again soon!

Wednesday 16th June 1:30pm – General update/incentive scheme – reducing anticholinergic burden (ACB) dapagliflozin in HF

Wednesday 14th July 1:30pm – Green inhalers and quarterly report

Wednesday 11th August 1:30pm - TBC