



MOP UP.

Medicines
Optimisation
Update

To contact NHS BSW CCG Medicines Optimisation Team:

✉ bswccg.prescribing@nhs.net

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

Issue 18
July 2021

The Meds Op Team can help

The Medicines Optimisation team are happy to answer queries sent to bswccg.prescribing@nhs.net.

We will respond to your query **within 48 hours**, but in most cases we will respond quicker than this, usually **the same day**. All we ask is that you **do not send patient identifiable details** unless specifically asked.

We can deal with the following types of queries:

- Prescribe well spend less- Brands v Generic
- Private v NHS prescribing- particularly if Red Traffic light or non-formulary
- SystemOne (TPP) – can't find drug, importing and exporting reports.
- Optimise (FDB) problems- message pop up not clear, etc.
- Prescribing costs questions
- Medicines suitable for patients with intolerance to lactose or vegans/vegetarians
- Swapping or stopping medicines – particularly with long term supply issues
- Shortages- are they local or national?
- Patients prescribed Red drugs and have moved into area, or prescribed by secondary care out of area

This list is not exhaustive so, if in doubt, please ask- we can always signpost to the correct team.

Queries may also be answered by checking our MO website, which has a host of useful information and guidance- <https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/>

BSW Area Prescribing Committee (APC) Updates

The [BSW APC website](#) includes info on the APC and the formulary decision making process. Decisions from the May 2021 meeting have been ratified and can be found in full [here](#). Of particular note:

- New – [BSW Guidelines for Prescribing of Stoma Appliances](#) Info on appropriate stoma products and quantities for prescribing in primary care and stoma nurse contact details.
- Updated - [BSW SCA for ADHD in adults](#). Update includes dexamfetamine as an option for adults (off-label). Prescribe by brand Amfexa®; generic 5mg tablets not licensed for ADHD.
- [Bevespi Aerosphere](#)® (the first LABA/LAMA in a pMDI device licensed for COPD) and [Trixeo Aerosphere](#)® (a LABA/LAMA/ICS in a pMDI device licensed for COPD) added to BSWformulary with **GREEN TLS**. [*BSW COPD guidelines under review*]
- [Esmya](#)® [ulipristal acetate 5mg tablets](#) reinstated to BSWformulary now the temporary suspension of its license has been lifted but note further restrictions for use due to serious liver injury. **RED TLS**.

Dietetic Support

The CCG has a team of prescribing support dietitians and dietetic assistants. One of the services this team can offer GP practices is to review prescribing of Oral Nutritional Supplements at a practice level and assess compliance with local ONS prescribing and NICE Clinical Guidelines. This would involve dietitians contacting patients who aren't under the care of any other dietetic teams and who are currently prescribed ONS, to assess and review whether ongoing supplementation continues to be appropriate for these patients. The Dietitians can advise on alternative food first approaches and/or appropriate ongoing supplementation and refer onto other specialist teams if needed.

If this is a service that you think your practice might benefit from, please contact us initially via email on bswccg.prescribingsupportdietitians@nhs.net and we can set up a telephone or Microsoft Teams meeting to discuss your requirements in more detail.

The Dietitians are available to act as a resource for anyone at the practice to help advise on any nutrition related prescribed products as required, and again can be contacted via email: bswccg.prescribingsupportdietitians@nhs.net

Inappropriate anticoagulation of patients with a mechanical heart valve

During the COVID pandemic, advice was issued by [NICE](#) and [Specialist Pharmacy Service](#), in relation to anticoagulation services and many patients' therapy was changed from warfarin to an alternative anticoagulant, usually a DOAC in order to reduce the frequency of clinic attendance for monitoring, and thus reduce the risk to patients.

All patients with prosthetic mechanical heart valves require life-long oral anticoagulation with a vitamin K antagonist (VKA), usually warfarin, as these valves predispose the patient to systemic embolism. Thrombosis of a prosthetic valve is potentially life threatening as it can result in haemodynamically severe stenosis or regurgitation and acute heart failure. A recent National Patient Safety Alert indicates that incidents have been reported of patients with a mechanical heart valve being switched to a LMWH or a DOAC.

General practices will have received a 'task' from their clinical system identifying specific patients who have a record of a mechanical heart valve and are receiving a DOAC.

Practices using TPP:

The incoming message will now be labelled: CLINICAL SAFETY MESSAGE FROM TPP: URGENT.

TPP advises that each SystemOne Unit sets up a Task Group [`<Workflow> <Task List> <Settings> <User Groups>`] that should receive the Safety Message, with the appropriate membership, and then create a Task Rule to ensure that the Task Type: CLINICAL SAFETY MESSAGE FROM TPP: URGENT is sent to that group. [`<Workflow> <Task List> <Settings> <Rules>`]

For organisations that use more than one SystemOne unit a process should be in place that ensures the information received by any of the units is passed to the appropriate clinical safety officer.

GP practices are asked to urgently review these relevant tasks to ensure their patients are receiving the appropriate anticoagulation treatment. For more information please click: [CAS-ViewAlert \(mhra.gov.uk\)](#)

DHSC & NHS England and Improvement: Supply disruption alert - Champix (varenicline)

Champix Supply Issue - Pfizer are currently facing an issue with the supply of varenicline (Champix®) across all doses and presentations until further notice with very limited residual stock may be available in pharmacies.

- Patients currently prescribed this treatment will require review and switching to nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) unless contraindicated.
- No new patients should be initiated on Champix® (varenicline) products.
- Prescribers initiating smoking cessation treatment for new patients should consider prescribing NRT or bupropion 150mg prolonged release tablets unless contraindicated.
- Helping a patient to stop smoking should not be delayed if they are motivated to stop as other effective options are available.

Full information is available here [CASAAlertChampix](#)

The National Centre for Smoking Cessation and Training have produced supporting guidance which can be found here [Guidance on switching from Champix \(ncsct.co.uk\)](#)

Contact your local Support to Stop Smoking service for advice.

MOT Website New documents uploaded

Webinar presentations held in June

Medicines Optimisation Team prescribing update including incentive scheme

<https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=8583>

Anticholinergic Burden project

<https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=8585>

Dapagliflozin in Heart Failure

<https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=8588>

MOT Website Updated documents uploaded

MOCH Thickeners

<https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=5657>

BSW Prescribing 2021-22 Savings

Recommendations Prescribe Well – Spend Less

<https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=6011>