



MOP UP.

Medicines
Optimisation
Update

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

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BSW Area Prescribing Committee (APC) Updates

The [BSW APC website](https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/apc) (<https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/apc>) includes info on the APC and the formulary decision making process. Decisions from the July 2021 meeting have been ratified and can be found in full here:

<https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/apc-recent-decisions>. Of particular note:

- [Ferric Maltol 30mg oral capsules \(Feraccru®\)](http://www.bswformulary.nhs.uk/chaptersSubDetails.asp?FormularySectionID=9&SubSectionRef=09.01.01.01&SubSectionID=A100&drugmatch=4947#4947) (<http://www.bswformulary.nhs.uk/chaptersSubDetails.asp?FormularySectionID=9&SubSectionRef=09.01.01.01&SubSectionID=A100&drugmatch=4947#4947>) added for the treatment of iron deficiency anaemia ONLY for use in adult patients with inflammatory bowel disease where 2 or more different oral iron salts have been trialled for an adequate period of time but are not tolerated and the next step in treatment would be intravenous iron. **GREEN TLS**. See [BSW Pathway for use of Ferric Maltol](file:///C:/Users/sc028/Downloads/BSW%20Pathway%20for%20Use%20of%20ferric%20maltol%20(Feraccru)%20(3).pdf) ([file:///C:/Users/sc028/Downloads/BSW%20Pathway%20for%20Use%20of%20ferric%20maltol%20\(Feraccru\)%20\(3\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/sc028/Downloads/BSW%20Pathway%20for%20Use%20of%20ferric%20maltol%20(Feraccru)%20(3).pdf)) for further information. While there is no robust evidence to demonstrate clinical advantage of ferric maltol over IV iron, and correction of iron deficiency via this route would not be as rapid, it may be a more acceptable therapy route for patients and may help to reduce patients needing to attend hospital for IV iron. **Feraccru is significantly more expensive than conventional oral iron salts. Formulary status will be reviewed after the first 12 months (July 2022) to determine if inclusion on the BSWformulary has achieved the expected outcomes.**
- [Bempedoic acid 180mg tablets](http://bswformulary.nhs.uk/chaptersSubDetails.asp?FormularySectionID=2&SubSectionRef=02.12&SubSectionID=C100&drugmatch=5739#5739) and [Bempedoic acid/Ezetemibe 180mg/10mg tablets](http://bswformulary.nhs.uk/chaptersSubDetails.asp?FormularySectionID=2&SubSectionRef=02.12&SubSectionID=C100&drugmatch=5739#5739) (<http://bswformulary.nhs.uk/chaptersSubDetails.asp?FormularySectionID=2&SubSectionRef=02.12&SubSectionID=C100&drugmatch=5739#5739>) added to BSWformulary with **Amber TLS** for treating primary hypercholesterolaemia or mixed dyslipidaemia in line with [NICE TA694](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta694) (<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta694>) **BSW guidance to support prescribing in primary care is being developed.**

Sip Feed Prescribing

We are aware that occasionally you may receive emails or calls from representatives from Sip feed suppliers suggesting cost savings that could be gained from switching to their products from a rival product. Whilst the opportunity to realise the projected savings might be tempting, we'd like to remind you that blanket switches of seemingly equivalent products might not be appropriate for several clinical reasons e.g., inappropriate International Dysphagia level (IDDSI) levels, use of certain supplements precluded in certain medical conditions. Please continue to select oral nutritional supplements in line with the agreed BSW formulary (Available here: <http://www.bswformulary.nhs.uk/chaptersSubDetails.asp?FormularySectionID=9&SubSectionRef=09.04&SubSectionID=A100>).

If further advice is required, please contact the BSW CCG Prescribing Support Dietetics team on bswccg.prescribingsupportdietitians@nhs.net or contact your local Community Dietetics Team.

Discussions on Challenging Areas of Practice

'Making decisions in anticoagulation' (Thursday 30th September: 13.00 – 14.00) is the next informal on the coach discussion hosted by Specialist Pharmacy Services (SPS) for primary care pharmacy professionals. These sessions focus on 'grey' areas of practice, with interaction from attendees through the chat box. Further information available here: <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/meetings/new-series-discussions-on-challenging-areas-of-practice/>

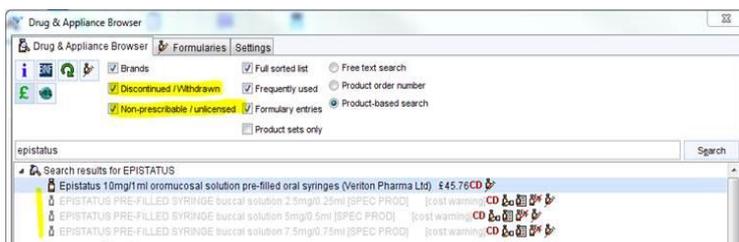
Avoid Prescribing Sertraline 25mg

Please avoid prescribing sertraline 25mg tablets; these should only be used for an initial 7-day dose titration or where halved tablets are required to achieve a 12.5mg dose. A 25mg dose can be achieved by halving a 50mg tablet. Sertraline 25mg is a non-drug-tariff strength and is around 10 times the cost of sertraline 50mg.

Epistatus (Buccal Midazolam) Risk of Prescribing Errors

We have recently been made aware of some incidents where the incorrect strength of Epistatus prefilled syringes were prescribed and dispensed due to an ambiguous set up on SystemOne clinical prescribing system.

Epistatus prefilled syringe strengths below 10mg/1ml are greyed out and marked as discontinued **BUT THEY ARE AVAILABLE**. SystemOne will let you prescribe these products *if you insist*. Please see below how to find it on the drug browser. SystemOne will flag “this product is discontinued, are you sure you want to prescribe it?” **Please click YES**. Ensure the correct dose is selected for the patient’s age and **ALWAYS** use the correct prefilled syringe for the dose required. Multi-dose vials should not be prescribed. Buccal midazolam prefilled syringes should be prescribed by brand. Epistatus is the formulary brand.



Epistatus Prefilled Buccal Syringes	PIP Codes for Pharmacy/Dispensary Ordering from Alliance Specials (these are special products):
Child 3 - 11 Months: 2.5mg/0.25ml	8383549
Child 1 - 4 Years: 5mg/0.5ml	8383606
Child 5 - 9 Years: 7.5mg/0.75ml	8383671
Child over 10 years: 10mg/1ml	4049847

Parents/carers should **NOT be told to administer part volumes of Epistatus prefilled syringe** because they do not include a graded measure/markings, it is intended that the entire contents of the syringe is used to deliver the correct dose and parents/carers are trained to administer the whole of the prefilled syringe. There is a risk of overdose if a higher dose prefilled syringe is provided.

Please note preparations should not be switched without thinking about the implications for the users, i.e., parents and carers who may have been trained to issue a particular product.

For further information please visit [BSW Formulary \(http://bswformulary.nhs.uk/chaptersSubDetails.asp?FormularySectionID=16&SubSectionRef=16.04&SubSectionID=A100&drugmatch=5440#5440\)](http://bswformulary.nhs.uk/chaptersSubDetails.asp?FormularySectionID=16&SubSectionRef=16.04&SubSectionID=A100&drugmatch=5440#5440).

Please contact us at bswccg.prescribing@nhs.net if you need advice or support.

Free Chronic Pain Educational Resources and Webinars

Following the publication of NICE Guidance for Chronic Pain, the online medical education provider Red Whale have produced two comprehensive articles which highlight some things we can do in primary care to better support, people with chronic pain:

Chronic Pain: NICE Guidance [Chronic-pain-NICE-guideline-May-21.pdf \(gp-update.co.uk\)](https://gp-update.co.uk/Chronic-pain-NICE-guideline-May-21.pdf)

Chronic Pain: Communication Skills and Self-Management [Chronic-pain-communication-skills-and-self-management-July-2021.pdf \(gp-update.co.uk\)](https://gp-update.co.uk/Chronic-pain-communication-skills-and-self-management-July-2021.pdf)

The articles cover the broader chronic pain clinical pathway including, our approach to communication to change the conversations we have around pain, and non-pharmacological self-management options to engage people as active participants. They highlight that pharmacological options (including opioids, gabapentinoids, benzodiazepines) should not be *initiated* to manage chronic primary pain, and for people already taking pharmacological treatments the articles explore how best to approach therapeutic review and shared decision making, to explain risks, keep people safe from potential harm and support gradual withdrawal as appropriate.

RED Whale also offer a comprehensive FREE and on demand webinar series by Dr Giles Hazan (GPwER in Chronic Pain) and Dr Benjamin Ellis (Consultant Rheumatologist who sat on the NICE committee who wrote the Chronic Pain Guidance) which give further discussion of these key concepts.

The webinars can be found here: [GP Update \(gp-update.co.uk\)](https://gp-update.co.uk)

MOT Website New documents uploaded

MOCH Topical MAR chart

<https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=8713>

MOCH Newsletter – summer 2021 edition

<https://prescribing.bswccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=8722>

MOT Website Updated documents uploaded

BSW Prescribing 2021-22 Savings Recommendations Prescribe Well – Spend Less

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

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.