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BSW Area Prescribing Committee (APC) Updates

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

- [BSW Primary Care Antibiotic Guidance](#) updated to include information from [NG199](#) on *C.difficile* infection. This update includes changing [Fidaxomicin tablets](#) to **GREEN TLS** so they can be initiated in primary care as per NG199. Prescribers in the community may still wish to seek specialist advice from micro before starting treatment if unfamiliar with diagnosing and treating *C.difficile*. Fidaxomicin is expensive (£1350 per 20 tablet course) and may not be routinely stocked so we recommend the prescriber contacts community pharmacy before issuing prescription to see how quickly it can be supplied.
- [Trurapi insulin aspart 100units/ml solution for injection PFP and cartridges](#) Trurapi is a biosimilar of the rapid-acting insulin analogue NovoRapid (insulin aspart) and is added to formulary as first line insulin aspart in new patients **GREEN TLS**.

New Guidance: Antimicrobial Prescribing in Clostridioides Difficile (C.difficile) Infection

The [BSW Management of Infection Guidance for Primary Care](#) has recently been updated to reflect the changes in [NICE Guidance 199: C.Difficile Infection Antimicrobial Prescribing](#)

Oral vancomycin is now recommended as the **first-line** antibiotic for a first episode of *C. difficile* infection of mild to moderate severity. **Fidaxomicin** can be considered as the **second-line** antibiotic for a first episode of *C. difficile* infection when vancomycin is ineffective (treatment failure). **Oral metronidazole** is **no longer recommended** for treating (mild and moderate) *C. difficile* infection.

In the community, consider seeking prompt specialist advice from a microbiologist or infectious diseases specialist before starting treatment.

Refer to [BSW Management of Infection Guidance for Primary Care](#) for further information on the choice of antimicrobial for treatment in patients experiencing further episodes of *C.difficile* infection. Treatment choice is dependent on timing of the further episode, and its classification as either a relapse or a recurrence. Relapse is defined as within 12 weeks of initial symptom resolution, and recurrence is defined as more than 12 weeks after initial symptoms resolution of *C. difficile* infection.

For guidance on diagnosis and reporting suspected or confirmed *C. difficile* infection, see further information available in [Public Health England's guidance on diagnosis & reporting](#)

Lipid management update

National Guidance for Lipid Management for Primary and Secondary Prevention of CVD and a Statin Intolerance Pathway have been added to the BSWformulary entry for the recently added drug Bempedoic Acid. These resources have been produced by NICE/Accelerated Access Collaborative and we expect them to be updated imminently to incorporate another new NICE approved drug that has been added to BSWformulary, Inclisiran.

Inclisiran has been assigned a GREEN TLS as directed by NHSE/I. NHSE/I have set up a novel funding mechanism which supports prescribing of inclisiran in primary care and promotes a Population Health Management (PHM) approach to lipid management. The goal of the PHM approach is to implement a large-scale intervention, with patients proactively identified and their lipid management optimised in primary care. Support for primary care will be provided by AAC and the WEAHSN, and a primary care DES is expected for the new financial year to have a focus on CVD prevention.

Specific guidance for primary care about inclisiran will be published w/b 29/11/21 after it has been signed off by the BSW Area Prescribing Committee.

1. Inclisiran for treating primary hypercholesterolaemia or mixed dyslipidaemia. NICE TA733 6/10/21 (Accessed 5/11/21) [Overview | Inclisiran for treating primary hypercholesterolaemia or mixed dyslipidaemia | Guidance | NICE](#)
2. Summary of product characteristics Leqvio 284mg solution for injection in prefilled syringe. (Accessed 5/11/21) <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/12039>

Additional resources: Heart UK –Tackling Cholesterol Together
<https://www.heartuk.org.uk/tackling-cholesterol-together/home>

MOT Website New documents uploaded

The Environmental Impact of Inhalers - information/patient leaflet
<https://prescribing.bswccq.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=8981>

MOCH Newsletter – Autumn 2021 edition (PrescQIPP special)
<https://prescribing.bswccq.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=8990>

MOT Website Updated documents uploaded

BSW Prescribing 2021-22 Savings Recommendations - Prescribe Well – Spend Less
<https://prescribing.bswccq.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=6011>

Skills not Pills: Pain Management Webinar

On Thursday 2nd December 2021, 7.30pm – 9.00pm, all healthcare professionals from across BSW (including GP practice Pain Champions) are invited to join this educational webinar with Dr Jon Dolman (GP fellow long-term conditions, Somerset Training Hub) and the Chronic Pain in Cornwall Team - Dr Jim Huddy GP & Cornwall CCG Chronic Pain Lead, Sean Jennings Expert Patient, Nikki Kelly Social Prescriber, Dr Keith Mitchell Consultant in Pain Management Royal Cornwall.

The session aims to explore safe prescribing of medicines for pain (including de-prescribing), strategies for a consistent approach to pain management within the GP practice, NICE guidance on Chronic Pain, and non-pharmacological approaches including social prescribing.

To register contact BGP PERT BGP PERT@birdbath.org.uk