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 Intranet site (Wiltshire specific): <https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk>

ACTIONS this month:-

- Please consider voting for this TPP development to improve the way MC+S are presented
- Avoid faxed prescriptions from 31st March 2020. @nhs.net emails should be used for all written communications
- e-learning available to help patients Self-Care
- Shortage of Valproic acid preparations (Depakote[®] and Convulex[®]).

Antibiotic guidance update and a request

Please be aware that the local BSW antibiotic guidance has been updated in discussion with our local acute trust microbiology specialists to include the recently published updates from NICE.

Below are the first line options. Follow this link for the most updated, full version of our local antibiotic guidelines:-

<https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=6041>

- ✓ **Acute Diverticulitis** [NICE NG147 2019](#) Consider offering antibiotics if the patient is systemically unwell.
 - 1st line: **Co-amoxiclav** 500/125mg TDS for 5 days
- ✓ **Cellulitis** [CKS NICE Cellulitis NG141 2019](#)
 - 1st line: **Flucloxacillin** 500mg QDS for 5 to 7 days
 - Facial cellulitis 1st line: **Co-amoxiclav** 625mg TDS for 7 days
- ✓ **Diabetic foot infection** [NICE NG19 2019](#) *See full guidance for severity classification*
 - Mild infection: **Flucloxacillin** 500mg to 1g(off label) QDS

A TPP development request has been raised to **redesign the way MC+S (sensitivity reports) are presented on TPP**. This is to highlight first line, narrow-spectrum antibiotics over broad spectrum options. For this development to be undertaken, it needs to obtain as many votes as possible. **The reference code is 88f20000.**

Please contact the Meds Optimisation Team if you need advice on how to vote!

Requested by	YEUNG, Tsz Kin (Mr) at Wiltshire CCG Reporting Unit		
Development summary	Review how the microbiological culture sensitivity result are presented on TPP.		
Date request was submitted	05 Feb 2020 11:55	Reference code	88f20000

ACTION: Please consider voting for this TPP development to improve the way MC+S are presented.

No more faxed prescriptions!

From 31 March 2020 **fax machines will be phased out** in Health and Social Care and all health and social care organisations should be using a different communication method such as secure email.

Pharmacies have all been set up with NHSmail email accounts to securely transfer patient data between health professionals. If you are unsure what your NHSmail address is or how to access it please contact Sam Clarke, Digital Project Manager on samantha.clarke8@nhs.net

ACTION: Practices and Pharmacies should now avoid all faxed communications. @nhs.net emails should be used and EPS should be used for prescriptions to be dispensed in England.

Raising awareness of self-care

An [e-learning programme](#) has been developed by Health Education England and the [Self Care Forum](#) to help GPs, nurses and community pharmacists advise patients and carers on managing and treating minor health conditions themselves. This can be very helpful for healthcare professionals as part of implementing the guidance on [conditions for which over-the-counter items should not routinely be prescribed in primary care](#).

ACTION: Health care professionals can enrol on this e-learning to maximise their skills on advising patients on managing and treating minor conditions themselves.

Formulary Update

Formulary	Drug	Decision	Comments
BSW	Testosterone preparations	Red	When used as part of HRT regimes
3Ts	Co-danthramer / Co-danthruser	Removed from Chapter 1	Should only be used in the context of Palliative Care

Picato® (Ingenol Mebutate gel) - suspension of the licence

Stop prescribing Picato and consider other treatment options for **actinic keratosis** as appropriate. The licence of ingenol mebutate (Picato) has been suspended as a precautionary measure while the European Medicines Agency continues to investigate concerns about a possible increased risk of skin malignancy.

Link to updated BSW Actinic Keratosis guidance: <https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=6835>

ACTION: Stop prescribing Picato and invite patients to be reviewed when they next require a prescription to treat an AK lesion.

Shortages: Convulex & Depakote

Depakote is licensed for the treatment of manic episodes associated with bipolar disorder. The manufacturer will be out of stock of Depakote tablets until mid to late March 2020. Phoenix wholesaler has limited stocks of 250mg available. The shortage may have come about due to the supply disruption of Convulex (Valproic acid licensed for epilepsy) CAS report for Convulex can be found [here](#)

The alert states that **Depakote and Belvo® are interchangeable so require no dosing adjustments**. Please prescribe generically so pharmacies can dispense whichever brand they are able to obtain.

This may be a good opportunity to liaise with the mental health team to discuss permanently switching to sodium valproate as the approved valproate preparation of choice for use in bipolar disorder (in patients for whom lithium is not tolerated or contraindicated) see AWP Valproate Prescribing Bulletin found [here](#)

ACTION: Manage Depakote/Convulex shortage proactively to avoid discontinuation of treatments. Belvo® is an alternative formulation that is currently available.

Website Updates – most of the guidance will be applicable to all 3 CCGs

MOCH Care Home documents	https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/care-homes-moch
Wiltshire POD patient leaflet – what we can do/what we don't do	https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=5111
Magnesium Preparations	https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=6570
UKMI Equivalent doses of oral Benzodiazepines	https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=6424
SARUM Pulmonary Rehab referral form	https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=6347
PHE Scarlet Fever information	https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=6368
Hyaluronate injections in Osteoarthritis	https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=6589
NICE Bites GORD in children and young people	https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=6261
Prescribing Guidelines for Dry Eye	https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=6615
Stop smoking community quick guide	https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=6936

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.