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

### ACTIONS this month:-

- Ensure patients get a consistent message regarding Ranitidine shortages
- GP surgeries may switch appropriate patients to Bunov<sup>®</sup> transdermal patches (Buprenorphine) and Vencarm<sup>®</sup> XL (Venlafaxine MR) to ensure cost-effective prescribing
- Patients currently using Respimat disposable inhalers must be counselled about the manipulation of the new reusable Respimat (Spiriva, Spiolto & Striverdi)

### Ranitidine Shortages – patient information in a nutshell

- Ranitidine is a **safe medicine** and has not been withdrawn. Any patient who has supplies can take them safely and confidently. Do not stop treatment unless your doctor advises you to
- Contaminated batches have been identified and recalled (*Zantac<sup>®</sup>* and *TEVA effervescent tablets* **only** at the time of printing)
- All other batches are quarantined for examination before release to patients
- Supplies are scarce and you may need to **try different strengths or forms** (i.e. liquid)
- If stocks totally depleted, the prescriber may need to temporarily switch Ranitidine onto a different acid-suppressant drug. Follow your GP/nurse/pharmacist instructions and advice in this case.
- Depending on your symptoms, your prescriber may suggest a trial without this medication.

An update for clinicians including advice on alternatives is available [here](#)

### New cost-effective brands of choice

#### BUNOV<sup>®</sup> (Buprenorphine 7-day patches)



**Bunov** replaces Butec as preferred brand of Buprenorphine 7-day transdermal patches.

Consistent use of **Bunov** rather than BuTrans or generically written prescriptions could generate savings worth £170,000 across the BSW area

Transdermal opiates should only be prescribed

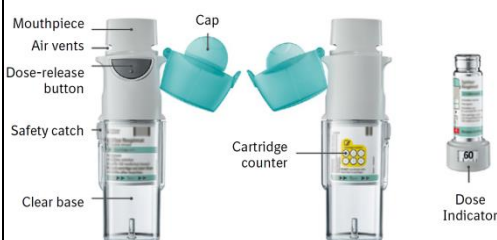
- After careful evaluation of benefit vs risk
- For patients unable to take oral medication

#### Vencarm<sup>®</sup> XL

**Venlafaxine** is a Green drug on BSWformulary, it is indicated for the treatment and prevention of major depressive episodes

- Immediate-release venlafaxine (BD dosage) is considerably less expensive than once daily (XL).
- The XL formulation should only be used if the immediate-release formulation is not tolerated or if concordance with a twice daily regimen is difficult.
- Vencarm<sup>®</sup> XL is the most cost-effective brand for these cases, especially the 225mg denomination. Savings up to £60,000 could be realised in the BSW area if prescriptions are written for Vencarm<sup>®</sup> XL rather than other brands or generic prescribing.

**ACTION: GP surgeries may switch appropriate patients to Bunov<sup>®</sup> transdermal patches (Buprenorphine) and Vencarm<sup>®</sup> XL (Venlafaxine MR) to ensure cost-effective prescribing**



#### Respimat Reusable inhaler

Respimat<sup>®</sup> inhaler has changed from a device that needs to be replaced each month to a re-usable inhaler, where the cartridge may be removed when empty and a new one inserted. The **inhaler must be replaced** after using it with 6 cartridges (i.e. every 6 months)

The design of the reusable inhaler is **virtually identical** to the previous version and the delivery and effects of the medication remain the same. An information leaflet is available [here](#) and within the package

- ☞ Spiriva Respimat 2.5micrograms/dose inhalation solution cartridge with device (Boehringer Ingelheim Ltd) £23.00
- ☞ Spiriva Respimat 2.5micrograms/dose inhalation solution refill cartridge (Boehringer Ingelheim Ltd) £23.00

**ACTION: Counsel patients about the manipulation of the new reusable inhaler**

## Hypertension in adults: diagnosis and management (NG136) – updated NICE guidance

Updated guidance includes new recommendations on diagnosis, threshold for drug treatment and identifying who to refer for same-day specialist review. **Key updates** include the recommendation that patients under 80 years with stage 1 hypertension and an estimated 10-year CVD risk  $\geq 10\%$  are offered medication in addition to lifestyle intervention. Full guidance [here](#)

A very useful visual **summary** of targets, drug choice and monitoring is available on [this link](#)

## BSW Formulary Update

We have brought forward the launch of the BaNES/Swindon/Wiltshire (BSW) joint formulary which is **NOW** live and can be found at [www.bswformulary.nhs.uk](http://www.bswformulary.nhs.uk) (open access) or with a mobile app; instructions for opening and use can be found [here](#). A number of 'differences' in formulary options and traffic light statuses have yet to be agreed across BSW. Please bear with us as we work to review these differences. The current formulary groups will continue to meet independently until an overarching Area Prescribing Committee is established.

If you have trouble finding documents or have any feedback, contact us via [bsw.formulary@nhs.net](mailto:bsw.formulary@nhs.net)

Formulary	Drug	Decision	Comments
BCAP & ICID	Catephen <sup>®</sup> ointment		For external genital and perianal warts
BCAP & ICID	Strontium Ranelate		Relaunched following discontinuation in 2017
BCAP	Ospemifene	Declined	Non-formulary
ICID	Co-danthramer & Co-danthrusate <i>suspensions</i>	Removal	Lack of use & exorbitant costs
ICID	Fluomizin <sup>®</sup> vaginal tablets (Dequalinium)		
ICID	Utrogestan <sup>®</sup> (micronised progesterone)		Please see <a href="#">HRT guidance</a> and current <a href="#">supply issues</a>
ICID	Softacort <sup>®</sup> eye drops (Hydrocortisone)		
3Ts	Paravit CF		
3Ts	Fluomizin <sup>®</sup> vaginal tablets (Dequalinium)		

## CPCS launch

The launch date for the NHS **Community Pharmacist Consultation Service** (CPCS) has been set as 29th October 2019.

The service, which **will replace the NUMSAS and DMIRS** pilots, will connect patients who have a minor illness or need an urgent supply of a medicine with a community pharmacy.

The CPCS will only take referrals to community pharmacy from NHS 111 initially, with a rise in scale with referrals from other parts of the NHS to follow. The CPCS will relieve pressure on the wider NHS by connecting patients with community pharmacy, which should be their first port of call and can deliver a swift, convenient and effective service to meet their needs.

It is important to bear in mind this service is intended for patients who contact 111; GP practices or community pharmacies **should not refer patients** requesting prescriptions during their opening hours to the 111 service

**ACTION: GP surgeries to be aware of this service. Expect communication from community pharmacies regarding emergency supplies made but no prescription required!!**

## Medicines Shortages

### Medicines in a No Deal EU Exit

NHSE's [FAQ](#) around the government's approach to ensure that medicines continue to be available if there is a no-deal EU exit. There is also a link to the nhs.uk website which provides updated information for patients.

### Further sources of information

More information on medicine shortages can be found on the **Specialist Pharmacy Service** website by clicking [here](#) or the **MIMS webpage "Drug Shortages – Live Tracker"** by clicking [here](#) (password required).

## New Documents

BSW Lidocaine Plasters Prescribing Summary	<a href="https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=1674">https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=1674</a>
BSW COPD guidance	<a href="https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=1548">https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=1548</a>
BSW Formulary Quick Reference Guide	<a href="https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=2131">https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=2131</a>
Netformulary V3 App for IOS & Android	<a href="https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=2130">https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=2130</a>
Routine Immunisation Schedule (Autumn 2019)	<a href="https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=1616">https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=1616</a>
Wiltshire Hay Fever (Seasonal Allergic Rhinitis)	<a href="https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=1820">https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=1820</a>
Allergic rhinitis in Adults guidance (Wilts and BaNES)	<a href="https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=1805">https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=1805</a>
Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) supply issues	<a href="https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=2133">https://prescribing.wiltshireccg.nhs.uk/?wpdmdl=2133</a>

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.

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