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BOB Medicines Optimisation Bulletin



This bi-monthly newsletter is written by the Medicines Optimisation Team of the BOB Integrated Care Board and is intended for healthcare professionals and practice staff. If you have any questions or feedback, please contact the team via the email address: bobicb.medicines@nhs.net

Past editions of the bulletin can be found on the [SharePoint](#) website.

- [National updates](#)
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National updates

National Patient Safety Alert - Discontinuation of Promixin® (colistimethate) 1-million unit powder for nebuliser solution unit dose vials

A [NatSPA](#) has been issued for Promixin® (colistimethate) 1-million-unit powder for nebuliser solution unit dose vials (UDVs) which are being discontinued from early May 2025, with stocks anticipated to be exhausted by this date.

The MOT has identified a number of practices who have issued this medication in the last few months and will notify them individually, however ***all practices should check for any patients prescribed this product*** and refer them to their respiratory specialist for an alternative colistimethate preparation as soon as possible.

If you would like any additional support please contact the MOT on bobicb.medicines@nhs.net

Actions to be completed by 30/04/2025.

So what?

- Identify patients currently prescribed Promixin® UDVs and refer to respiratory specialist for an alternative
- Do not initiate any new patients on Promixin® 1-million unit powder for nebuliser solution UDVs

MHRA Class 2 Medicines Recall: Utrogestan Vaginal 200 mg Capsules (progesterone)

Uni Health Distribution Ltd has informed the MHRA of a typographical error on the approved carton overlabel for certain batches of Utrogestan Vaginal 200 mg Capsules. The carton label references 'micrograms' where it should actually state 'milligrams'.

Do not supply the affected batch and immediately quarantine any affected stock.

Full details of the recall notice can be found [here](#).

So what?

- All affected batches should be immediately quarantined and returned to the supplier
- Patients should note that the correct typography 'mg' is referenced elsewhere on the carton label, as well as on the blister label and inside the PIL.

BOB System updates

Updates from Area Prescribing Committee

GLP-1 RA – Supply Issues Resolved

All GLP-1 RA products are now back in full supply, with the exception of Bydureon (Exenatide) which is still limited to existing patients. See updates shortages information on SharePoint [here](#).

Victoza (liraglutide) has been discontinued, but there are two cost-effective biosimilars now available – Zegluden® and Diavac®. Liraglutide **must be prescribed by brand name** to ensure a cost effective and licensed product is dispensed.

Now that all GLP-1 RAs are available, the [BOB Type 2 Diabetes Guidelines](#) and formularies ([Buckinghamshire](#), [Oxfordshire](#) and [Berkshire West](#)) should be followed.

GLP-1 RAs with evidence of cardiovascular benefit should be used **first line** i.e. **liraglutide (Zegluden®, Diavac®), s/c semaglutide (Ozempic®) or dulaglutide (Trulicity®)**. Second line drugs may be used when a patient needs an oral product (Rybelsus®) or the first line options are not suitable. A checklist is available [here](#) to support with prescribing.

So what?

- See IDDN Newsletter for a more detailed article and other diabetes related updates. Newsletters [link](#).

Shared Care Protocols

The Medicines Optimisation Team have been working closely with the local Trusts to review and adopt the national NHSE/RMOC Shared Care Protocols. Protocols approved at the January meeting:

- [bob-icb-mycophenolate-mofetil-for-patients-within-adult-services-non-transplant-shared-care-protocol.pdf](#)
- [bob-icb-ciclosporin-oral-for-patients-within-adult-services-non-transplant-shared-care-protocol.pdf](#)

Please note these protocols are for use in adults only. There are more protocols on the March APC agendas.

So What?

- Always use the most up to date versions of the shared care protocols. These will be linked on the formulary and found on the ICB website here: [Shared Care Protocols | BOB ICB](#)

Overactive Bladder Guidelines

The previous place-based Overactive Bladder guidelines have now been replaced by a new BOB-wide [Overactive Bladder Guideline](#). The most significant change to note is the addition of vibegron, which can be used instead of mirabegron in patients with hypertension or intolerance.

So What?

- Always use the most up to date versions of our guidelines. These will be linked on the formulary and found on the ICB website here: [Medicines Optimisation Guidelines | BOB ICB](#)

Apollo Pro-shield Duo Safety Needle

There has been a minor update to our [bob-icb-guidance-for-the-prescribing-of-cost-effective-insulin-needles.pdf](#) guideline to note that Apollo Pro-shield Duo Safety Needle is now the most cost-effective dual safety needle. There are very limited circumstances where safety needles should be prescribed, and if they are then the more cost-effective standard safety needles (rather than a dual) should be sufficient. Please see guidelines for more details on when it is appropriate to issue and first line options.

Insomnia Guidance update – CBT-I

Cognitive behavioural therapy for insomnia (CBT-I) is recommended as an option for the treatment of insomnia. Recently digital CBT-I from Sleepio had been available for free for patients; unfortunately this has changed and use of this service now incurs a charge. The guidance has been updated accordingly.

Medicines Safety

New MHRA monthly safety bulletin and redesigned safety alerts

As part of the [MHRA safety strategy](#) to improve safety communications they are aiming to make information, for all medicines, medical devices, and healthcare products regulated by the MHRA, clearer and more accessible for healthcare professionals.

The [new monthly safety bulletin](#), 'MHRA Safety Roundup', will provide a summary of all the MHRA safety alerts for the past month including drug safety updates (DSU), device safety information (DSI), national patient safety alerts, recalls and medicines notifications, and letters sent to healthcare professionals, as well as an MHRA news section highlighting key safety information.

The redesigned [MHRA safety alerts](#) will make critical safety advice clearer and easier to action, utilising colour, and relevant imagery to better engage healthcare professionals who often need to disseminate the information to their patients.

So what?

- The MHRA have launched a new 'MHRA Safety roundup' newsletter and redesigned the MHRA safety alerts to make safety information clearer and more accessible
- Subscribe to the '[MHRA Safety Roundup](#)' [here](#)

ScriptSwitch Insights: Monthly Top Medication Switches

Each month the Medicines Optimisation Team will be highlighting some key ScriptSwitch recommendations that have been frequently missed but can have a significant impact on patient care and medication management.

By staying on top of these top switches, you can help ensure that your patients are receiving the most effective, cost-efficient, and evidence-based treatments.

Here are the **Top Missed ScriptSwitch Recommendations in March 2025**:

Original product	Replacement product	Did you know?
Fostair 100micrograms/dose /6micrograms/dose inhaler	Luforbec 100micrograms/dose /6micrograms/dose inhaler	As well as this being a cost saving switch, Luforbec is a carbon neutral inhaler, in line with NHS priority of reducing carbon footprint. Dry Powder Inhaler's are first line choice for inhalers, so if the patient is able to use one and you are able to counsel on the change of device, consider prescribing Fostair NEXThaler in place of Fostair MDI.
Fostair 200micrograms/dose /6micrograms/dose inhaler	Luforbec 200micrograms/dose /6micrograms/dose inhaler	
Utrogestan 100mg capsules	Progesterone micronised 100mg capsules	This is a commonly prescribed cost effective brand to generic switch. Prescribing generically enables community pharmacy to dispense a brand they have available in the pharmacy.
Cetraben cream	Epimax excetra cream	Epimax Excetra has been approved for use by BOB APC with input from local dermatologists, to ensure its effectiveness and equivalence to the original product.

So what?

- Please disseminate and share across the practice and at practice clinical meetings
- Review ScriptSwitch reports

If you have any questions or need assistance with navigating ScriptSwitch, please do not hesitate to get in contact via the Medicines Inbox bobicb.medicines@nhs.net or Optum customerserviceuk@optum.com



Training, upcoming meeting and Resources

Valproate – NHSE South-East regional newsletter No. 20

Please see the latest regional newsletter with an update on the work to support and improve safety around valproate prescribing. A reminder also that a valproate easy read leaflet is now available, in 30 languages, to support conversations with patients and carers.



Valproate newsletter
No.20.pdf

Diabetes Information and Resources

The BOB Integrated Diabetes Delivery Network (IDDN) have created a webpage on SharePoint to host diabetes resources relating to pathways and guidance to support your management of people with diabetes. For the latest information from BOB IDDN, please see the newsletters on this [link](#).

Other news and information

Easter Bank Holiday 2025 – opening hours for community pharmacies in BOB ICB

Please see the links below for the Easter Bank Holiday Posters 2025 detailing which pharmacies will be open on the Bank Holidays across BOB ICB.

[Berkshire-Pharmacy-Opening-Times-Easter-BH-2025.pdf](#)

[Buckinghamshire-Pharmacy-Opening-Times-Easter-BH-2025.pdf](#)

Medicines Supply Information

Some information on long-term supply issues can be found on [Prescqiipp](#) or the [Medicines Supply Tool](#) on the SPS website. Please note this is not an exhaustive list.

Please note the Medicines Optimisation team will no longer be producing a summary the key stock issues that relate to primary care as this information can vary and fluctuate on a week-by-week basis, therefore the information can become outdated quickly. We advise that you register to be able to access the resources detailed above, to ensure you obtain the most relevant and up to date information on Medicine Supply Information.

Serious Shortage Protocols

Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs), which enable community pharmacists to supply patients with specific alternative medicines, are available to view on the NHS Business Service Authority (BSA)'s [dedicated SSP web page](#), along with supporting guidance. Questions regarding the SSPs should be directed to the NHS Prescription Service:

Email: nhsbsa.prescriptionservices@nhsbsa.nhs.uk

Telephone: 0300 330 1349. Textphone: 18001 0300 330 1349

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