

August 2025 Volume 4 Issue 11



Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire
and Berkshire West
Integrated Care Board

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.

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National updates

National Patient Safety Alert – Shortage of Antimicrobial Agents Used for Tuberculosis (TB) Treatment

A [National Patient Safety Alert](#) has been issued due to the intermittent supply of a number of antimicrobial medicines for TB which is expected to last until the end of 2025. A clinical prioritisation is detailed in Note A of the alert.

Primary care clinicians should **NOT** prescribe rifampicin until the shortage is resolved, and prescribing should be limited to a ***maximum of one month's supply***.

Up to date information on stock availability can be found at [SPS Medicines Supply Tool](#)

So what?

- Action is required by **15/08/2025** in line with the alert.
- Ensure patients are informed about any changes to their medication

MHRA Class 2 recall – Flutiform 250 mcg / 10 mcg per actuation pressurised inhalation (MDI)

CD Pharma Ltd have notified the MHRA of an error on the outer carton of the product for the batches listed in this notification. While the total active content statement is correct, the delivered dose content statement is incorrect.

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

So what?

- Please quarantine affected stock and return via usual processes

MHRA Class 2 recall – Fucidin 250mg tablets

LEO Pharma is recalling the affected batch as a precautionary measure due to out of specification results for impurities during routine stability testing. Affected batches should be returned via the usual routes.

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

So what?

- Please quarantine affected stock and return via usual processes

Important Update: Otomize Ear Spray Discontinuation

Prescribers should be aware that the brand Otomize Ear Spray will be discontinued and will no longer be available to prescribe from the 31st July.

Ennogen Healthcare International Limited has introduced a generic version of Otomize Ear Spray called Dexamethasone/ Neomycin sulfate/ Acetic acid 0.1%w/w / 0.5%w/w / 2%w/w Ear Spray, which is available to order from wholesalers.

Please note, all three prescribing systems (EMIS, System1 and Vision) have rolled out an update where the generic Dexamethasone/ Neomycin sulfate/ Acetic acid 0.1%w/w / 0.5%w/w / 2%w/w Ear Spray should appear. If prescribers cannot see the generic option please contact your system providers for further help.

So what?

- Otomize Ear Spray will be discontinued and will no longer be available to prescribe from the 31st July
- Generic Dexamethasone/ Neomycin sulfate/ Acetic acid 0.1%w/w / 0.5%w/w / 2%w/w Ear is available.



BOB System updates



Review of OTC Anti-dandruff shampoo prescribing in primary care

Across BOB, there has been a gradual rise in cost of prescribing OTC/ self-care medicines over the last few months.

One of the areas showing significant growth locally is shampoo for the treatment of dandruff. In the last 12 months BOB ICB spent **£478,000** on prescribing for this condition alone, this was a 40% increase from the previous year.

We acknowledge that not all treatments prescribed will be for simple dandruff and that some patients may have more severe conditions, but we encourage clinicians to review patients to assess if this treatment is being used to manage a long-term condition or whether this would be suitable for self-care and purchase over the counter.

Ketoconazole shampoo, one of the most commonly prescribed treatments for dandruff is available to purchase over the counter, as are many of the other treatments prescribed for this condition. Recently there has been an increase in the drug tariff price for generic ketoconazole shampoo, rising from £4.08 to £31.77 per 120ml bottle, this price increase has added £11k to the BOB prescribing budget for the month of May alone.

ScriptSwitch messages are being reviewed to ask that prescribers consider the appropriateness of prescribing treatment for self-limiting dandruff that could be managed effectively over the counter.

So what?

- **Please review patients currently issued treatments for dandruff especially Ketoconazole shampoo and consider if the condition is suitable for self-care. If prescribing is required, please switch patients to branded Nizoral 2% shampoo as recommended via Script Switch.**
- **Encourage people to manage their symptoms with over the counter (OTC) medications rather than relying on GP prescriptions.**

BOB Medicines Waste Campaign

BOB ICB has launched a campaign providing local people with advice and tips to help them reduce prescription medicine waste which is estimated to cost the NHS nationally around £300m each year.

The campaign has been designed to encourage individuals to do their bit to help reduce medicines waste as this is not something the NHS can tackle on our own.

We need your help to promote this campaign among patients by including information on your websites and displaying 5 videos on your GP screens over the next four months. We also ask you to share messages on your social media platforms. Further information and all the campaign material can be accessed [here](#)

Reducing medicines waste



Together we can make a difference

August 2025 Summer Bank Holiday – Pharmacies open across the Southeast

Please find links below to details of the pharmacies open over the Summer Bank Holiday (25th August) 2025 across the Southeast region:

[Berkshire - 25 Aug 2025 BH - Pharmacy Opening Times.pdf](#)

[Buckinghamshire - 25 Aug 2025 BH - Pharmacy Opening Times.pdf](#)

[Hampshire - 25 Aug 2025 BH - Pharmacy Opening Times.pdf](#)

[Isle of Wight - 25 Aug 2025 BH - Pharmacy Opening Times.pdf](#)

[Kent - 25 Aug 2025 BH - Pharmacy Opening Times.pdf](#)

[Oxfordshire - 25 Aug 2025 BH - Pharmacy Opening Times.pdf](#)

[Surrey - 25 Aug 2025 BH - Pharmacy Opening Times.pdf](#)

[Sussex - 25 Aug 2025 BH - Pharmacy Opening Times.pdf](#)

Prescribing Quality Scheme

PQS Evidence Review

The PQS Evidence Review panel has started to review the returned evidence for PQS 2025 and wish to remind practices of the following:

- Please do not include any patient data in returned evidence including clinical system Id numbers. These are the columns highlighted in yellow in each of the spreadsheets.

- If there are no patients for a particular search, please indicate this on any returned spreadsheets. This is particularly relevant for the DOAC searches.
- Please ensure that you populate the areas of the spreadsheet marked 'This section will be used for the evidence review by ICB MOT PQS review panel' These are the columns in green in each of the spreadsheets.

ScriptSwitch Insights:

Medicines Optimisation Team Commends GP Practices for Increased Engagement with ScriptSwitch

The Medicines Optimisation Team for Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire West (BOB) wants to thank GP practices for your hard work and increased engagement with ScriptSwitch. This prescribing support tool helps improve patient care and encourage cost-effective prescribing.

ScriptSwitch is a major part of the **Prescribing Quality Scheme (PQS)** for this year. The team is monitoring two key metrics:

- **Offer Rate (OR):** How often ScriptSwitch recommendations appear.
- **Prescriptions Logged (PL):** The number of prescriptions recorded in the system.

A higher level of engagement with these indicators not only helps practices meet the PQS criteria but also leads to better patient outcomes.

Several practices have gone above and beyond by participating in prescribing reviews, engaging in MOT Meetings, and integrating feedback into clinical practice — behaviours that support ongoing quality improvement and patient care excellence.

Since the launch of PQS, the number of practices outlying on PQS targets has dropped from 34 practices in April 2025 to just 6 practices in July 2025. This improvement reflects the positive steps practices are taking to embed formulary guidance into everyday clinical decisions.

The Medicines Optimisation Team also listens to feedback from practices during ScriptSwitch engagement meetings. In response, we have reviewed and refined ScriptSwitch content, ensuring that any recommendations or switches that were not adding clinical value have been removed or adjusted i.e. disabling switch from generic co-codamol to Emcozin. This collaborative approach helps maintain the relevance and usefulness of ScriptSwitch prompts, reduces alert fatigue and supports prescribers in making informed, streamlined decisions aligned with local priorities.

As we continue working together to support safe, evidence-based prescribing, the Medicines Optimisation Team looks forward to building on this momentum. We will continue offering tailored support, insights, and collaboration opportunities to help practices make the most of ScriptSwitch and all its benefits.

To every practice that has taken the time to engage: thank you — your efforts are recognised, appreciated, and are making a difference.



Training, upcoming meeting and Resources



Updated Anticholinergic burden bulletin from PrescQIPP

PrescQIPP have updated their Bulletin 360: Anticholinergic burden, in July 2025. This bulletin may be a useful tool to support SMRs and Target 5 in this year's PQS, around falls prevention.

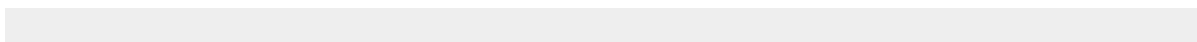
PrescQIPP resources are available for clinicians to access in primary and secondary care and in care homes, under the ICB subscription.

To register please complete the [registration form](#) on the PrescQIPP website and select "ICS Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West" under organisation.

PQS Target 3: Oversupply & Repeat Prescribing drop-in sessions

As part of Target 3: Oversupply and Repeat Prescribing process review in this year's Prescribing Quality Scheme (PQS), MOT are running drop-in sessions which offer an opportunity for staff to discuss any issues or ask questions. *Note: there will be no formal training at this session – just the opportunity to discuss progress on the PQS target with members of the Medicines Optimisation Team.*

Please use the links below to join a session:



Repeat Prescribing Drop-in sessions	
Thursday 28th August 2025 13:00-13:30	Join the meeting now Meeting ID: 311 459 610 407 7 Passcode: k9BM7tf2
Wednesday 17th September 13:00-13:30	Join the meeting now Meeting ID: 365 262 371 744 2 Passcode: 5Vx6EX2q

Respiratory Information and Resources

The BOB Integrated Respiratory Delivery Network (IRDN) have created a webpage on SharePoint to host respiratory resources to support your management of people with respiratory conditions. For the latest information from BOB IRDN, please see the newsletters on this [link](#).

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

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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