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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



Suspected risk of Guillain- Barré syndrome following RSV vaccination

Due to a small increased risk, healthcare professionals should be alert to signs and symptoms of Guillain-Barré syndrome following vaccination with Abrysvo® (Pfizer respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine) and Arexvy® (GSK RSV vaccine) in adults aged 60 years and older. Any patients with suspected symptoms should seek immediate medical attention.

See further details in [Drug Safety Update](#)

So what?

- Be please vigilant for symptoms in patients post vaccination



BOB System updates



Prescribing Quality Scheme Updates

PQS Evidence Update

The PQS Evidence Review panel has started to review returned evidence for PQS 2025 and wish to suggest that for Part B of the low dose DOAC work i.e people with either Creatinine Clearance (CrCl) 35-44mls/min OR who are 75 years or older OR are coded as frail and who do not have up to date monitoring results within the last 4 months should have a **process or recall system** to ensure these monitoring requirements are updated in a timely manner.

Monitoring results required are: Creatine Clearance using [Cockcroft & Gault formula](#), liver function tests, urea & electrolytes and full blood count. For further information also see [SPS DOAC monitoring guidance](#)

So what?

- Ensure a process or recall system is in place to invite specific patients for updating their blood tests

ScriptSwitch Insights: Monthly Top Medication Switches

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

By staying on top of these top switches, and prescribing the preferred product in the first instance, you can help ensure that your patients are receiving the most effective, cost-efficient, and evidence-based treatments. Here are the Top Offered ScriptSwitch Recommendations in August 2025:

Prescribed product	Preferred product	Did you know?
Adcal-D3 chewable tablets tutti frutti	Evacal D3 1500mg/400unit chewable tablets	This is a commonly prescribed cost effective brand to branded generic switch.
Utrogestan 100mg capsules	Progesterone micronised 100mg capsules	This is a commonly prescribed cost effective brand to generic switch. Prescribing generically enabled community pharmacy to dispense a brand that 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 on customerserviceuk@optum.com



Training, upcoming meeting and Resources



BOB ICB Pharmacy Workforce Conference

BOB ICB is hosting its “**Pharmacy Workforce Conference**” on **Thursday 2nd Oct’25** from **9am – 5pm**, at the *Oxford Belfry Hotel, just off junction 7 of M40*. We hope that you will support the whole-day event, which is free of charge, by permitting your relevant staff to attend. The conference is primarily aimed at pharmacy professionals (pharmacists and pharmacy technicians) working within Primary Care. Attendees will be able to hear from both national and local speakers on many important and topical subjects (see attached DRAFT Agenda for details), and they will also have the opportunity to network with colleagues and share ideas and experiences.

Kindly register here: [PCN Conference Registration Form](#)

Deadline for registrations is **Tues 16th Sept’25**.

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



Discontinuation of Elvanse Adult formulation

Takeda UK Ltd are discontinuing Elvanse® (lisdexamphetamine) **Adult** formulation. This will be replaced by Elvanse® capsules which will be licensed for use in *anyone* 6 years and over. Once stock of the existing products is no longer available, please change the prescriptions to Elvanse® capsules accordingly.

Please see [here](#) for further information on actions for prescribers and a copy of the new PIL.

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.

Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) 'Managing a robust and resilient supply of medicines report'

The DHSC have published a report on [Managing a robust and resilient supply of medicines](#), which sets out plans to improve transparency and resilience of UK medicine supply chains.

The report also confirms a planned consultation on giving community pharmacists more flexibility to supply alternative strengths or formulations of prescribed medicines. This would apply in specific cases to improve patient access and experience. The consultation will explore when such flexibility is appropriate, aiming to balance patient safety with the risk of supply issues for other medicines. Information guides for patients, pharmacists and GPs on medicines shortages are also due to be published later in the summer.

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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