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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

Medicine Supply Notification: Amiodarone 100mg and 200mg tablets

On Monday 20th October 2025 the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has issued a medicine supply notification for : Amiodarone 100mg and 200mg tablets

The MSN states that:

- Amiodarone 100mg and 200mg tablets are in limited supply until w/c 17 November 2025
- Amiodarone suspension remains available (Specials).
- Unlicensed imports of amiodarone 100mg and 200mg tablets have been sourced (lead times vary).
- Alternative antiarrhythmics agents remain available.

Please note where the clinical indication is for ventricular arrhythmias, amiodarone supply must be continuously maintained as there would be a risk of life-threatening arrhythmia or death if off amiodarone therapy.

Please also see [BOB ICB Shared Care Protocol for amiodarone.](#)

So what?

For a copy of this medicine supply notification, including actions required and supporting information – [click here](#)

Medicine Supply Notification: Mometasone (Asmanex Twisthaler®) 200micrograms/dose dry powder and 400micrograms/dose dry powder inhalers

On Monday 20th October 2025 the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has issued a medicine supply notification for : Mometasone (Asmanex Twisthaler®) 200micrograms/dose dry powder and 400micrograms/dose dry powder inhalers.

The MSN states that:

- Mometasone (Asmanex Twisthaler®) 200microgram/dose dry powder inhaler (60 dose) is being discontinued from late October 2025.
- Mometasone (Asmanex Twisthaler®) 200microgram/dose dry powder inhaler (30 dose) and 400micrograms/dose dry powder inhaler (30 dose and 60 dose) are being discontinued from late February 2026.
- Alternative corticosteroid inhalers remain available

So what?

For a copy of this medicine supply notification, including actions required and supporting information – [click here](#)

Medicines Safety Week (3-9 November 2025): A call to action to improve patient safety

This year is the 10th annual #MedSafetyWeek campaign, which takes place from 3 to 9 November 2025, with the theme of 'we can all help make medicines safer.'

The UK focus is on highlighting the importance of reporting suspected problems from all healthcare products to the [Yellow Card scheme](#), no matter who you are.

All healthcare professionals are encouraged to support and raise awareness of the scheme to increase awareness and reporting from the general public. Please see the special [Drug Safety Update](#) article for the campaign materials and resources.



So what?

- The [#MedSafetyWeek](#) campaign runs from 3 to 9 November. The theme is 'we can all help make medicines safer'.

Please see the [#MedSafetyWeek](#) page on how to get involved and raise awareness. Get involved and support by reposting, liking and sharing the MHRA posts using **#MHRAYellowCard** and **#MedSafetyWeek** on social media. Every Yellow Card report counts.



BOB System updates



Dietetic Updates

Care Home Training on Using Food to Manage Malnutrition

Dates are now available to be booked for Care Home staff to receive training on '**Using Food to Manage Malnutrition**'. Share with your colleagues to **register using this [link](#)**, at the earliest.

Further dates will be added, so check back at regular intervals.

The MOT will also reach out to a number of homes in each locality to run in-house sessions. Contact us if you feel your home would particularly benefit from the training. The sessions will be run either face-to-face or online.

Learning Objectives & Session Outline:

- Understand the causes, signs, and risks of malnutrition and dehydration in care home residents.
- Learn how to assess residents for malnutrition and dehydration.
- Develop strategies to manage and prevent malnutrition and dehydration, from our [Malnutrition-Management Pathway](#). Learn how to add over 1000 calories plus protein to a resident's daily intake through homemade supplements, nutritious snacks and food fortification.
- Implement effective hydration and nutritional care plans.

So what?

Share with your colleagues and **register using this [link](#)**, at the earliest. (NEW LINK)

Care Home use of ONS

BOB ICB no longer supports the use of routine oral nutrition supplements (ONS) in Care Homes, unless criteria are met.

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, costefficient, and evidence-based treatments.

Here are the Top Offered ScriptSwitch Recommendations in October 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.
Cetralen 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 medicines@nhs.net or Optum on customerserviceuk@optum.com

Training, upcoming meeting and Resources

EARLY CAREERS EVENT - Calling All Pharmacists & Pharmacy Technicians!

Join us for an engaging session dedicated to enhancing pharmacy practices, sharing insights, and networking with fellow professionals.

 BOB ICB Branch Pharmacy Meeting ( [AGENDA - EarlyCareers Oxford 27.11.25.pdf](#))

 **Date:** Thursday, 27th November 2025  **Time:** 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM  **Refreshments:** 6:00 PM – 6:45 PM  **Venue:** Lecture Room, George Pickering Education Centre, Level 3, JR Main Building, Headington, Oxford OX3 0AG

 **Attendees - Open to all, especially:**

-  Pharmacists with up to 2 years of experience
-  Pharmacy Technicians with up to 5 years of experience

 **Registration :** Please complete the registration form by Thursday, 6th November 2025 via <https://forms.office.com/e/nj8j3LjxMDby>

South East NHSE Lipids Summit webinar 11th November – NHSE with BOB ICB and BOB system partners

BOB ICB will be presenting at the event

The South East regional CVD Prevention Leadership Group, supported by the NHSE national CVD Prevention team is delighted to invite you to a Lipids Summit.

This collaborative event scheduled for **Tuesday 11 November (12:00 – 13:00)**, is jointly produced with our ICB/wider system partners, who will share their experience working towards improving public health through delivering work on lipids as well as the national clinical policy team in NHS England.

Please see the link to sign up for the webinar: [South East Region Lipids Summit Registration Form](#)

We encourage you to share/forward this invitation link widely with your networks and any colleagues that may benefit from attending.

Apologies for any cross-posting or if you receive this invite more than once.

If you have any further queries about the webinar, please contact england.southeast.preventionandinequalities@nhs.net

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](#).

Rybelsus® (oral semaglutide): risk of medication error due to introduction of new formulation with increased bioavailability

Please see full alert here: [Rybelsus X-38 - DHPC](#) and [Rybelsus medication error public health communication](#)

Rybelsus® tablets will be replaced with a new formulation with increased bioavailability, which is bioequivalent to the initial formulation as described in the table below:

Initial formulation (one oval tablet)	Bioequivalent	New formulation (one round tablet)
3 mg (starting dose)	=	1.5 mg (starting dose)
7 mg (maintenance dose)	=	4 mg (maintenance dose)
14 mg (maintenance dose)	=	9 mg (maintenance dose)

- Rybelsus® should always be used as one tablet per day.
- The two formulations will temporarily co-exist on the market, which may cause mix ups. This could result in overdosing, which increases the risk of adverse events.
- The new formulations are being added to systems such as EMIS, but may take a while to rollout across all systems.
- The initial formulations will cease to be available by the end of the year
- A prompt will be added to ScriptSwitch to advise you to change patients to the new formulation at the authorisation of their next course. Please also opportunistically switch patients at their next prescription issue
- **Patients currently taking Rybelsus® should be informed and advised about the change in formulation and dose when the new formulation is prescribed or dispensed.**

- **Patients starting Rybelsus® treatment should be prescribed the new formulation and be suitably informed by the prescriber and dispensing pharmacist.**
- The [EMA alert](#) contains information for patients to help with patients communications. Novo Nordisk have also produced some Patient Information - [pdf Rybelsus.pdf](#)
- A search will likely be available via Ardens within a few weeks of the formulations being available on EMIS (Population Reporting > Ardens Searches > 2.15 Prescribing – CAS alerts).



Other news and information



Medicines Supply Information

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

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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