

## 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](mailto:bobicb.medicines@nhs.net)

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

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# National updates



## CAS alert: Outbreak of invasive meningococcal disease, South East England

UKHSA has issued a [CAS alert](#) regarding the outbreak of Invasive Meningococcal Disease in South East England. This alert outlines recommended courses of action clinicians should consider taking to manage suspected cases, potential contacts of cases, and to reduce the risk of infection spreading.

### So what?

- Ensure your practice staff are aware of the guidance and priority steps.
- All practices are reminded that they need to be [registered with the Central Alerting System](#) (CAS) as per [CQC guidance](#).

## MHRA Class 2 Recall – Ramipril 5mg capsules

Crescent Pharma Limited is recalling one batch of ramipril 5 mg capsules as a precautionary measure due to a potential error at the manufacturing site, where it has been identified that a pack of ramipril 5mg capsules (Batch Number GR164099) contains blister strips of *amlodipine* 5mg Tablets inside the sealed carton.

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

### So what?

- Please quarantine any stock and return via the usual route.

## MHRA Class 2 Recall - Curaleaf Oil (FS) 10mg/ml THC, 10mg/ml CBD (30ml)

Rokshaw Limited Trading as Curaleaf Laboratories are recalling three batches of Curaleaf Oil [FS] 10mg/ml THC 10mg/ml CBD (30ml) due to low THC content.

The affected batches are being recalled out of an abundance of caution, and no adverse events have been received for these batches of products.

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

### So what?

- Please quarantine any stock and return via the usual route.

## Medicine Supply Notification: Co-codamol 30mg/500mg tablets EMIS searches on enterprise

We have previously communicated the significant MHRA co-codamol 30mg/500mg tablets [Medicine Supply Notification](#) from early February 2026 until June 2026.

GP practices are advised to review the Medicines Supply Notification for further details and information on suitable alternative options where appropriate.

A ScriptSwitch popup has already been activated locally for all affected preparations to support prescribing decisions.

**To support practices in identifying patients who may be affected, a co-codamol search and report (covering the previous 3 months) has been saved in EMIS Enterprise Search and Report within the Medicines Management folder for each area.** This can be copied across to your practice searches, see [EMIS search](#) document.

Care must be taken if switching products to minimise the risk of patients accidentally ordering or being prescribed TWO paracetamol and/or codeine containing products. Communication with patients/carers and everyone in the practice involved in the repeat prescribing process is recommended so all involved are aware of the risks.



## BOB System updates



## Prescribing Savings Incentive Scheme (PSIS)

We are pleased to introduce a new **Prescribing Savings Incentive Scheme (PSIS)**, running until **31<sup>st</sup> July 2026**. All information and supporting resources are available on SharePoint [here](#).

Generic **dapagliflozin** is now available in the UK supply chain and is significantly more cost-effective than other SGLT2 inhibitors (empagliflozin, canagliflozin, ertugliflozin, or branded dapagliflozin). Practices are encouraged to review patients currently prescribed an SGLT2 inhibitor and consider switching to generic dapagliflozin, following assessment against the inclusion and exclusion criteria outlined in the switch protocol.

### Incentive Payments

Practices signing up to the scheme will be eligible for the following payments per patient switched:

- **1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026:** £20 per patient
- **1<sup>st</sup> June 2026 – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2026:** £10 per patient

Practices must confirm participation by emailing [bobicb.medicines@nhs.net](mailto:bobicb.medicines@nhs.net) by **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April**. Switches may begin immediately upon receipt of this documentation, and practices that sign up will be back-paid for eligible switches made from **1<sup>st</sup> January 2026**. If you do not wish to participate, please let us know so we can avoid unnecessary follow-up.

#### **Payment and Reporting**

- **EMIS practices:** Payments will be calculated using EMIS Enterprise searches.
- **SystemOne practices:** A report confirming the number of patients switched with date switched will be required by Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August.
- If you have any questions, please contact [bobicb.medicines@nhs.net](mailto:bobicb.medicines@nhs.net).

## Dietetic Updates

### Care Home ONS Prescribing: Not Supported in BOB

BOB ICB no longer supports the use of routine oral nutrition supplements (ONS) in Care Homes, unless criteria are met. See the [Position Statement](#) for more information.

Care homes should be encouraged to manage malnutrition using a food based approach, and can use the [BOB ICB Pathway](#) to be supported with this.

#### **So what?**

- Prescribing of Oral Nutritional Supplements (ONS) is not recommended for residents of Care Homes (unless exception criteria are met)

### Lunch and Learn Webinar: COPD

The dietitians will be offering a Lunch and Learn Webinar on COPD on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March. Email [bobicb.medicines@nhs.net](mailto:bobicb.medicines@nhs.net) to be invited.

#### **So what?**

- Sign up and attend the Nutrition Lunch and Learn Webinar on COPD on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 1pm.
- Catch up on historic webinars [here](#).



# Training, upcoming meeting and Resources



## Easter Bank Holiday Pharmacy Opening Times

Please find attached the Easter Bank Holiday posters detailing which pharmacies will be open across the area for your information:

- [Berkshire West](#)
- [Buckinghamshire](#)
- [Oxfordshire](#)

## Respiratory Information and Resources

The BOB Integrated Respiratory Delivery Network (IDDN) have created a ClinOx webpage 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.

# 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](mailto:nhsbsa.prescriptionservices@nhsbsa.nhs.uk)

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

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