

# Community Pharmacy Briefing

## 2026/27 SWL Medicines Improvement Scheme (MIS)

June 2026

A decorative graphic in the bottom-left corner consisting of several overlapping, rounded shapes in shades of blue, green, and teal, arranged in a diagonal pattern.

# SWL Medicines Optimisation: Medicines Improvement Scheme (MIS)

- South West London (SWL) Medicines Improvement Scheme (MIS) 2026/27 in place from June 2026 – March 2027:
  - ✓ Promote safe, sustainable, and cost-effective prescribing initiatives to improve patient outcomes
  - ✓ Supports financial sustainability and medicines value allowing re-investment of resources and reducing variation
- Community Pharmacy Briefing developed to provide community pharmacists with practical guidance on what to expect, how to align with Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF) services, and actions to support GPs and patients.

# Role & Importance of Community Pharmacy

Link to [SWL Joint Medicines Formulary](#)

## Align

### Align dispensing to the [SWL Joint Formulary](#)

- ✓ Supports prescribing patterns, such as:
  - **low-carbon inhalers** to reduce the environmental impact of inhalers to support the NHS net zero target,
  - cost-effective prescribing of **preferred and licensed formulations** to improve cost-effectiveness and reduce reliance on unlicensed products (e.g. melatonin)
  - Improve antibiotic prescribing and reduce the risk of adverse events and antimicrobial resistance (e.g. 5-day prescribing where clinically appropriate).

## Support

### Support patient education and adherence

- ✓ Safer, evidence-based prescribing and improved sustainability initiatives.
- ✓ Pharmacies can reinforce these changes during consultations, supporting adherence and patient education
- ✓ Use New Medicine Service (NMS) and Discharge Medicines Service (DMS) to reinforce safe prescribing and continuity of care.

## Collaborate

### Collaborate with GP practices and link with CPCF services

- ✓ Feedback on stock issues, resolve patient queries to ensure continuity of care. If suggesting available alternatives, ensure recommendations align with [SWL Joint Formulary](#)
- ✓ Align MIS metrics with Pharmacy Quality Scheme (PQS) domains, such as the respiratory quality criteria
- ✓ Promote NHS Pharmacy First service to encourage self-care and reduce unnecessary OTC prescribing.

# Community Pharmacy Engagement

## What this means for Pharmacy

**Aim:** Strengthen GP-Community Pharmacy collaboration to improve patient care, communication and system efficiency

### **What GP Practices are required to do**

- Nominate a Think Pharmacy First (TPF) Lead, named contact for engagement
- Establish a monitored pharmacy inbox for timely two-way communication (for wider engagement, in addition to existing GP Contract requirements).
- Actively engage with  $\geq 1$  local community pharmacy, ensuring the agreed practice email is shared, understood, and used, with evidence of engagement retained.
- Have the above implemented and submit declaration to ICB via MS form by 30th Nov 2026

**Good practice (recommended):** Agree 1 SMART improvement action with pharmacy partners. Focus on local priorities e.g.:

- Medicines shortages management & waste reduction actions
- Pharmacy First & clinical services- optimisation
- Formulary switches communication
- NHS App repeat prescription orders increase

### **What this means for Community Pharmacy**

- Named GP contact to establish two-way communication
- Clear route for queries, escalations & service feedback
- Opportunity to shape local working relationships
- Increased focus on joint working across neighbourhood/PCNs

# Actions for Community Pharmacy & Benefits

## **Suggested actions for Community Pharmacy**

- Engage with GP practices / TPF Leads (build local relationships)
- Use agreed email/communication channels consistently, and on agreed principles
- Provide feedback on prescriptions, shortages & service outcomes
- Promote and deliver Pharmacy First & clinical services
- Support NHS App uptake and “Only Order What You Need” messaging
- Participate in joint improvement actions (SMART projects)

## **Benefits for Community Pharmacy**

- Improved communication → faster query resolution & fewer delays
- Stronger GP relationships → better coordinated patient care
- Increased appropriate referrals into pharmacy services
- Reduced unnecessary workload (less duplication / clarification)
- Earlier visibility of prescribing changes & shortages
- Enhanced role within Integrated Neighbourhood Teams

## **Overall impact**

- Better patient experience
- More efficient system working
- Greater recognition of community pharmacy as a clinical partner

# 2026/27 SWL Medicines Improvement Scheme (MIS) – Prescribing Metrics

Area	Detail	Impact on Community Pharmacies
Antimicrobials	Antimicrobial stewardship – Amoxicillin 500mg and Doxycycline 100mg courses Increase 5-day course length, in line with <a href="#">Infection Management and Treatment in Primary Care - SWL Antimicrobial Guidelines</a> to improve antibiotic prescribing and reduce the risk of adverse events and antimicrobial resistance.	Ensure amoxicillin and doxycycline courses are 5 days, where clinically appropriate, increased 5-day course length:  Amoxicillin 15 x cap OP Doxycycline 6 x cap/tab OP
	Reduce percentage of children age 0-9 years prescribed one antibiotic course in general practice	Limited impact
Diabetes	<b>Blood Glucose Testing Strips</b> Appropriate and cost-effective prescribing in line with SWL position statement for <a href="#">BGTS and lancets</a>	Increased prescribing of SWL preferred meters: AgaMatrix Agile®; Lancet: Comfort Twist® OR AgaMatrix® and BGTS: GlucoFix Tech® Sensors; Lancet: Glucoject Plus® Ultra-thin Encourage not to over order test strips and lancets.
	<b>Pen needles</b> Appropriate and cost-effective prescribing of pen needles	Increased prescribing as per SWL Position statement for <a href="#">pen needles</a> costing less than £3 per 100 pack size
Nutrition	<b>Adult Oral Nutritional Supplements</b> Increase % preferred 'green' powdered ONS in line with <a href="#">SWL Malnutrition and ONS Guidelines</a> to reduce spend, support environmental sustainability, and improve patient management	<b>First Line:</b> Food-based approach. <a href="#">Food-Based Resources</a> information can be shared with patients and carers. <b>Second line: powder ONS preferred over liquid</b> i.e. Foodlink Complete Powder®, Aymes® Shake Powder, Aymes ActaSolve Smoothie® and Foodlink Smoothie® Follow <a href="#">ONS Product Guidance Summary Table</a>

# 2026/27 SWL Medicines Improvement Scheme (MIS) – Prescribing Metrics

Area	Detail	Impact on Community Pharmacies
<b>Polypharmacy</b>	Polypharmacy review of patients 75years or over on 10 or more medicines; or prescribed 2 or more DAMN drugs.	Limited impact
<b>NHS App</b>	Increase patient-led prescription ordering via NHS App & engagement with waste campaign.	Patient impact
<b>Respiratory</b>	<b>Inhalers - safer prescribing:</b> Reduce the percentage of asthma patients receiving 6 or more short acting beta agonist (SABA) inhalers in 12 months as per the new joint <a href="#">BTS/NICE/SIGN asthma guidelines NG245</a> and local <a href="#">SWL Asthma Management Guidelines</a> .	Short acting beta agonist (SABA) inhaler reduction; increase in AIR/MART therapy: <b>First Line: Dry powder inhalers (DPI)</b> Fobumix Easyhaler®, Symbicort Turbohaler®, Duoresp Spiromax® and Fostair Nexthaler®. <b>Second Line:</b> pressurised metered-dose inhalers (pMDI) Proxor® or Bibecfo® Refer to <a href="#">SWL asthma management guidance</a>
	<b>Inhalers - environmental impact:</b> Increase the prescribing of low-carbon preventer inhalers and reduce the environmental impact of inhalers to support the NHS net zero target.	<b>First Line: Dry powder inhalers (DPI) or soft-mist inhaler (SMI)</b> <b>Second Line:</b> pressurised metered-dose inhalers (pMDI) as per SWL guidance link. Refer to the <a href="#">SWL Formulary</a> .
	Cost-effective prescribing of inhalers – Fostair® MDI to Proxor® MDI	Increased prescribing of Proxor® preferred MDI brand in primary care

# 2026/27 SWL MIS – Cost Containment

Category	Original Product	Replacement Product	Resources
Low priority / Self-care	Lidocaine 700mg medicated plasters Versatis 700mg medicated plasters	Prescribe only if for a named indication within this guidance. Deprescribe in patients currently prescribed this medicine. Prescribe only if no other item or intervention is clinically appropriate. Prescribe only if no other item or intervention is available.	<a href="#">NHS E Lidocaine plasters recommendations</a> ; Refer to Named exceptions and the SWL Position Statement for <a href="#">Lidocaine Plasters</a>
	Omega 3 (Omacor®, Teromeg®, eicosapentaenoic acid / docosahexaenoic acid)	Do not initiate. Deprescribe in patients currently prescribed this medicine.	<a href="#">NHS E Omega 3 recommendations</a> ; SWL Position Statement for <a href="#">Omega-3 fatty acids Compounds</a>
	Bath emollients e.g. Oilatum® emollient, Aveeno® body wash, Dermol® shower	NHSE recommendations: Do not initiate. Deprescribe in patients currently prescribed this medicine. Prescribe only if no other item or intervention is clinically appropriate. Prescribe only if no other item or intervention is available.	<a href="#">NHS E Bath and shower and Self-care (OTC)</a> ; Refer to Named exceptions and the SWL Position Statement for <a href="#">Bath &amp; Shower Preparations for Dry and Pruritic Skin Conditions</a>
Cost-effective formulations	Doxazosin XL 4mg to Doxazosin immediate release 4mg	Doxazosin immediate release 4mg	<a href="#">NHS E Doxazosin recommendations</a> ; Specialist Pharmacy Service: <a href="https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/switching-doxazosin-xl-tablets-to-doxazosin-standard-tablets/">https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/switching-doxazosin-xl-tablets-to-doxazosin-standard-tablets/</a> ; SWL Position Statement for <a href="#">Doxazosin (prolonged release)</a>
	Doxazosin XL 8mg to Doxazosin immediate release 2 x 4mg Doxazosin 8mg immediate release (IR) tablets	Doxazosin immediate release 2 x 4mg Doxazosin 4mg immediate release (IR) tablets 2 x 4mg	
	Rivaroxaban capsules 10mg/15mg/20mg	Rivaroxaban <b>tablets</b> 10mg/15mg/20mg	Tablets / capsules are more cost-effective
	Omeprazole tablets 40mg/20mg/10mg	Omeprazole <b>capsules</b> 40mg/20mg/10mg	
	Macrogol 3350 oral powder 8.5g sachets sugar free	Macrogol compound oral powder sachets NPF sugar free	
Change of Product e.g. Brand to generic switch	Utrogestan 100mg capsules	Progesterone micronised 100mg capsules	Cost-effective generic equivalent where clinically appropriate;  Refer to <a href="#">Prescribing by generic or brand name in primary care – NHS SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice</a>
	Circadin 2mg modified-release tablets	Melatonin 2mg modified-release tablets	
	Vagifem 10microgram vaginal tablets	Estradiol 10microgram pessaries	
	Lipitor 20mg tablets	Atorvastatin 20mg tablets	
	Ganfort 0.3mg/ml / 5mg/ml eye drops	Bimatoprost 300micrograms/ml / Timolol 5mg/ml eye drops	
	Xalatan 50micrograms/ml eye drops	Latanoprost 50micrograms/ml eye drops	
	Sinemet Plus 25mg/100mg tablets	Co-careldopa 25mg/100mg tablets	
	Lipitor 40mg tablets	Atorvastatin 40mg tablets	
	Cerazette 75microgram tablets	Desogestrel 75microgram tablets	
	Eliquis 5mg tablets	Apixaban 5mg tablets	
	Forxiga 10mg tablets	Dapagliflozin 10mg tablets	
	Nexium 20mg gastro-resistant tablets (AstraZeneca)	Esomeprazole 20mg gastro-resistant tablets	
	Lumigan 100micrograms/ml eye drops	Bimatoprost 100micrograms/ml eye drops	
	Sukkarto SR 500mg/ 1000mg tablets	Metformin 500mg/ 1g modified-release tablets	
	Losec 20mg gastro-resistant capsules	Omeprazole 20mg gastro-resistant capsules	
Ganfort 0.3mg/ml / 5mg/ml eye drops 0.4ml unit dose	Bimatoprost 300microg/Timolol 5mg/ml eye drops 0.4ml		
Dymista 137micrograms/dose / 50micrograms/dose nasal spray	Fluticasone propionate 50microg/Azelastine 137micrograms/dose		

# Medicines Optimisation Points of Contact

- Any questions, please contact your local SWL ICB Medicines Optimisation Place Team:
  - **Croydon:** [Croydon.Medicines@swlondon.nhs.uk](mailto:Croydon.Medicines@swlondon.nhs.uk)
  - **Kingston & Richmond:** [KR.medicines@swlondon.nhs.uk](mailto:KR.medicines@swlondon.nhs.uk)
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