

Pharmacy Bulletin

12th March 2015

Welcome to this week's edition.

1. National audit: Emergency supply of medicines

You may well have heard this from other sources, but we have been advised by the NHS England central team that they have not been able to publish the guidance for pharmacies on how to complete the national emergency supply audit in time for the scheduled start. At the time of writing there was no further news about the revised start date. PSNC have issued communications to contractors (<http://psnc.org.uk/our-news/national-clinical-audit-important-update/>) to confirm this has been delayed. Hopefully more information will be made available soon.

2. Information Governance

As I am sure you are all aware all NHS providers, including community pharmacies need to provide information governance assurances to the NHS on an annual basis. These assurances are provided through completion of an online assessment tool, the NHS Information Governance Toolkit (IGT). Requirements for IG change annually, and Version 12 of the IG toolkit was released in June 2014. Please ensure that pharmacies complete the following three steps in order to complete the assessment:

Logging in to the Toolkit

Completion of the assessment

Publication of the assessment

The Toolkit can be accessed at: <https://www.igt.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk>

3. Prescription Exemption Checking

We would like remind all Pharmacy staff that unless patients are exempt by age and the date of birth on the prescription is computer generated, the patient is required to complete the exemption declaration and pharmacies are required to check for proof of a patient's exemption status at the point of dispensing. At the point at which the patient is asked to declare their exemption and the patient makes a declaration on the back of the prescription form, the patient must hold the required proof of exemption, and this must be within its period of validity – pharmacy staff are expected to check evidence of entitlement.

4 From the Devon LPC - Pharmacy First Survey for pharmacy staff delivering these services in NEW Devon and South Devon & Torbay CCGs

As part of the evaluation process for the Pharmacy First service, Devon LPC, NEW Devon CCG, South Devon and Torbay CCG and NHS England would like to seek the views of pharmacy staff on these services. These views will be used to re-model services if the Pharmacy First services are re-commissioned from July 2015 and will also be incorporated in our joint evaluation which will be published in May 2015.

To complete the survey please go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PharmacyFirst>

The survey should only take you 5 to 10 minutes to complete and you may complete it confidentially. However, we would encourage you to add your details so we can follow individual replies up where applicable.

Thank you for your anticipated support in completing this survey

5. For Cornwall Pharmacies only - Pregabalin Prescribing – Important Local Recommendations

Please find attached two documents relating to the current pregabalin situation that were sent to GPs last week.

1. NHS England – The Pregabalin Guidance
2. KCCG –Urgent Bulletin: Pregabalin Prescribing

Key points from the documents include:

- KCCG Supports the NHS England Guidance regarding branded prescribing of Lyrica for neuropathic pain at the current time
- Practices may choose to mass-switch everyone to Lyrica then review patients suitable for generic prescribing over the next few weeks/months, or simply switch individual patients to Lyrica where the indication is neuropathic pain.
- Prescriptions for generic pregabalin continue to be reimbursed at the cost of Lyrica in March. We will review the situation in April. If in doubt over the prescribing indication when a generic pregabalin prescription is received, if Lyrica is dispensed, pharmacies will be appropriately reimbursed by NHSBSA.
- It is likely that a proportion of patients will be prescribed Lyrica for non-neuropathic pain. If this is confirmed by the GP, this should be documented on the pharmacy PMR. Generic pregabalin can be considered in these cases.

If you require any further information, please contact the Prescribing Team on 01726 627953

If you have any articles you would like us to include in the weekly E-Communication then please let us know.

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