

Pharmacy Bulletin

6th August 2015

Welcome to this week's edition of the South (South West) Pharmacy Bulletin.

1. Pharmacy Health Promotion Campaign “Breast Cancer awareness in women over 70” for August 2015

Hopefully all pharmacies will have now received their promotional pack of materials, ie A3 poster, leaflets and symptom cards, for the Be Clear on Cancer campaign “Breast Cancer awareness for the over 70’s”. We hope that the campaign is progressing well. If you have any questions about the campaign please contact partnerships@phe.gov.uk

2. Changes to Christmas / New Year opening times

Pharmacies are entitled to be closed (subject to any specific direction to open issued by NHS England) on the three public/bank holidays on Friday 25 December, Monday 28 December and Friday 1 January. Pharmacies have previously been asked to provide confirmation of whether you will be open or closed on those days.

For the other days over the Christmas / New Year period pharmacies are expected to open for their usual contractually agreed opening hours on those days. The expectation of NHS England is that we expect all pharmacies to be open for their core hours during this time but pharmacies can ask to make changes to supplementary hours provided 90 days' notice has been given to NHS England (Saltash office) in writing that they wish to do so. You must ensure that all requests reach us before the 25th September, any requests received after this date will not be authorised. You will appreciate that ensuring there is enough pharmacy cover is a time consuming activity and would appreciate your support by returning any request for changes of hours over this period as soon as possible. We reserve the right to direct pharmacies to open should the need occur.

3. Ordering EPS tokens

We have received quite a few queries recently from pharmacies about how they order their EPS Dispensing Tokens.

The routes for ordering are:

- Pharmacies in Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset – order from South Plaza Stores using the webform at <http://www.avon.nhs.uk/pca/orderforms/>
- Pharmacies in Somerset – order from Bridgwater Stores using the attached fax order form

- Pharmacies in Devon, Cornwall & Isles of Scilly – order from Shared Business Services (SBS) T. 01392 351351, fax 01392 351383 or e-mail sbs-i.swpss@nhs.net

4. F2 doctors in General Practice

We would like to alert pharmacies to the fact that a new cohort of F2 doctors will be in GP practices from 5th August 2015 – 2nd August 2016 across the Peninsula. This may result in you receiving prescriptions with unfamiliar names and signatures. Obviously you may still feel you need to check the legality of a prescription, but thought this information may be helpful. In addition it may be pertinent to query any unusual drug choices or quantities.

5. Flu Advanced Service

This service will be the fifth Advanced service in the English Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF) and will commence from September 2015. Please use the link for details <http://psnc.org.uk/services-commissioning/advanced-services/flu-vaccination-service> Please can we encourage pharmacists to ensure that their flu vaccination training is up to date in preparation for this service. More details will follow when they are received.

If you have any articles you would like us to include in the weekly E-Communication then please send to either generic mail box – details below.

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