

Pharmacy Bulletin

10th December 2015

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

1. Flu

We would like to encourage all pharmacies to continue their efforts with encouraging those who are entitled to have a flu injection, who may not have already received one, to do so. With a change in the weather a lot more people will be visiting pharmacies for coughs and cold advice and we would like pharmacists to remind, particularly those who are on at risk, to have their flu jab.

Pharmacies are to be congratulated with the support they have already given to the flu campaign this year. Well done.

2. We would like to share a Significant Incident with you

A patient noticed that there were more pills to be taken than he expected in his dossett box. A telephone consultation was arranged where his carer, who has authority to talk to his GP, discussed this matter with the GP. From the GP's point of view the patient should only be taking 1x gliptin tablet but this has not been changed on the patient's medical record. In fact the GP was concerned that the patient was taking 2x50mg tablets which meant that the patient was overdosing for his kidney function. The carer was asked to drop in a copy of the dossett box and the original prescription was requested back from the pharmacy to look at the error. It was found that prescription had been changed to 2x25mg tablets. The script had not been sent back to surgery for re-signing. The changes were not annotated on the box and although the pharmacy says they spoke to the patient the patient said he knew nothing of the change.

The learning from this event shows that better communications between the pharmacy and the GP practice could have prevented the patient being confused over the dose and the medication he was supposed to take. Dossett boxes are often for patients on multiple medications at various times and are often complicated prescriptions. It is good that this patient felt able to raise this concern as there was a potential here to upset the patient's blood sugar control. Once all parties were aware the matter was settled within 24 hours.

As a result of this incident perhaps we would like to remind pharmacists of the need to discuss changes to patients with the GP and patient, and if there is a known carer then to ensure that the matter has also been discussed with them.

3. South West Norovirus Toolkit (two attachments)

Please find attached a copy of the advance letter giving information about the updated South West Norovirus Toolkit which was published in November 2015. CCGs have been tasked with providing a toolkit and resources to health and social care professionals.

A link to the PHE Website for information on norovirus infection is as follows:

http://www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/norovirus/menu.htm

Also attached is a copy of the Stop norovirus spreading this winter leaflet.

Please can you ensure that this information is disseminated to all relevant staff.

4. Fusidic Acid Viscous Eye Drops – no longer available after 31st December 2015 – for West and South Devon pharmacies only

We have been informed that Fusidic Acid Viscous Eye Drops has now been re-classified as a “hospital only drug” in the West Devon and South Devon Formulary, and is not in the North/East Formulary. It is therefore being removed from the drugs available under the Pharmacy First Services. This will happen with effect from 1st January 2016. Please ensure PharmOutcomes is up to date by the end of December, no further claims can be made after this date.

All of the information regarding the Pharmacy First services is on our website <http://devonlpc.org/locally-commissioned-services/devon-lpc-locally-commissioned-services/>

If you have any articles you would like us to include in the weekly E-Communication then please send to our generic mail box england.pharmacysouthwest@nhs.net

In addition if you know of any colleagues who would like to receive a copy of the E-Communication each week please send an e-mail with their name, place of work and e-mail address to our generic mail box england.pharmacysouthwest@nhs.net and we will add them to our distribution list.

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site “NHS England South (South West) Community pharmacy” can be found using the link: <http://www.england.nhs.uk/south/our-work/pharm-info/sw-pharm/>