

Pharmacy Bulletin

17th December 2015

Welcome to this week's edition of the South (South West) Pharmacy Bulletin. We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The next issue of E-Communication will be in early January.

1. Medicines to stock over Christmas and New Year in support of GP Out of Hours

One of the Out of Hours providers in the region has said that it would very helpful if pharmacies could ensure that, for the Christmas and New Year period, they have good stocks of the medicines most frequently prescribed by Out of Hours GPs. The suggested medicines are as follows:

- Amoxicillin capsules 250mg and 500mg
- Amoxicillin 125mg/5ml
- Codeine 15mg
- Co-amoxiclav 375mg
- Flucloxacillin capsules 250mg
- Penicillin tablets 250mg
- Penicillin solution 125mg/5ml
- Prednisolone tablets 5mg
- Prochlorperazine tablets 3mg
- Trimethoprim Tablets 200mg
- Diamorphine 10mg (though we're aware of some supply problems)

2. Christmas / New Year rotas

Copies of the rotas are now available on our web site <http://www.england.nhs.uk/south/our-work/pharm-info/sw-pharm/> for all areas of South West England. So please download any copies you require. Please remember to display these rotas in a prominent place so that they can be seen when the pharmacy is closed. We need to make sure that patients are aware of which pharmacies are open and where they can obtain their prescriptions. Thank you.

3. Changes to contact details for Public Health Devon

There is a new contact for claims for EHC, Stop Smoking and Needle Exchange. Ria Cockbain has now left Public Health Devon and so could you please amend the contact details to her successor, Sandra Allwood, Tel: 01392 386381, email: sandra.allwood@devon.gov.uk

4. Changing to Physeptone®

RISE (Devon) and Addaction (Cornwall) are changing their prescriptions for Methadone Oral Liquid 1mg/ml (sugared and sugar-free) to Physeptone® Oral Liquid 1mg/ml Sugar Free (or sugared if clinically appropriate). They are making minor prescribing changes to ensure cost effective prescribing with the aim of saving money that could be used to treat more clients and help fund other health services. The services will be providing reassurance to their clients that the medicines contain the same active ingredients in the same strength and work in the same way, so they should notice no difference in their treatment; however, they may notice that their new medication may look or taste slightly different. These services would be grateful if pharmacies are able to help them in providing these clients with additional reassurance during this time. Many pharmacies are already stocking Physeptone® so whilst the prescriptions may be changed this will not affect the product that the client is currently receiving. Individuals receiving 'specials' will be reviewed to ensure there are ongoing clinical needs for this. This change will be occurring over the next few months, and should be completed by March 2016.

5. Electronic repeat dispensing prescriptions (for pharmacies in NEW Devon CCG area – although guidance will apply to all pharmacies in the South West)

We have had reports from GP surgeries that some pharmacies are either unable or refuse to issue an electronic repeat dispensing prescription unless they are in possession of the printed RA (repeat authorisation) as they believe this is the legal document that provides the authorisation for the batch of repeat dispensing. If you refer to the guidance on electronic repeat dispensing (page 9) by using this link <https://www.england.nhs.uk/digitaltechnology/info-revolution/erd-guidance/> it states that the RA is optional in EPS, as it is no longer the legal authorisation and should not be needed by a pharmacy.

“Do I need to issue a Repeat Authorisation Token?”

No, the mandatory repeat authorisation token, given to the patient at the start of a repeat dispensing prescription, is optional when issuing a repeat dispensing prescription in the Electronic Prescription Service. If the patient requests a copy of the repeat authorisation token, then the prescriber can issue one at the time of prescribing or at a date in the future within the duration of the prescription. Until system suppliers have made functional changes to their systems, the repeat authorisation token may continue to default to printing, but after 1 November 2014 it will be optional to hand this to the patient.”

At the moment we are trying to increase the amount of patients on the electronic repeat dispensing service so we wanted to take this opportunity to resolve the problem before more and more patients are enrolled on the service.

6. Smartcard Biennial Certificate Renewals (for Cornwall pharmacies only)

Two certificates are written to your Smartcard when it is issued. These certificates need to be renewed every two years. You should be able to self-renew your certificates twice, at the end of two and four years after issue. At the end of six years after the Smartcard was issued you need to contact the CITS RA Team to have your certificates on your Smartcard replaced.

There have been a number of reported problems recently with the self-service renewal of Smartcard certificates and in some cases the process has failed, leaving the Smartcard without the proper certificates and in a non-working state, requiring a visit to the CITS RA Team to have the certificates on the Smartcard replaced.

To avoid this issue we recommend that if you start to receive a notification to inform you that your certificates on your Smartcard are about to expire, usually 30 days prior to expiry, you contact the CITS Service Desk (Cornwall IT Services 01209 881717, email:

citsservicedesk@nhs.net) to arrange for your certificates to be replaced. Your identity will need to be checked when the certificates are replaced so please ensure that you have the correct identity documents available

(see Appendix One in

<http://systems.hscic.gov.uk/rasmartcards/documents/nhsemplidcheck.pdf>

7. Fusidic Acid Viscous Eye Drops – no longer available after 31st December 2015

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 Devon 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.

	Address	Telephone
David Ward	NHS England - South (South West)	01935 381978
Sarah Lillington	Wynford House	01275 547119
Reception	Lufton Way	01935 384000
Fax	Yeovil Somerset BA22 8HR	01935 385080/384191
	Address	Telephone
Janet Newport	NHS England - South (South West)	01138248777
Sally Dutton	Peninsula House	01138248797
Kath Hughes	Kingsmill Road	01138248784
Stacey Burch	Tamar View Industrial Estate	01138248801
Reception	Saltash PL12 6LE	01752 679250
Fax		01752 841696

The web 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/>

Available documents are Contact Details (*to be updated*); Christmas & New Year pharmacy rotas; Cornwall pharmacies opening hours directory; Devon pharmacies opening hours directories; Forms for requesting changes to Core or Supplementary hours; Blank unplanned closure form; links to the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments (PNAs); links to LPCs; Blank templates for NMS and MUR returns; MUR guidance (*to be updated*) and Prem2d application forms; Significant Incident reporting form; Serious Difficulty application form; and log for 100 hour pharmacies.