

Pharmacy Bulletin

18th June 2015

Welcome to this week's edition. As you will see we are now sending a combined E-Communication to all pharmacies in the South West. Some areas may be relevant to you and some not - so please bear with us.

1. MUR Reclaims

For any pharmacy that carries out over 400 MURs in a year NHS England can reclaim the monies claimed for the MURs in excess of 400. This is to advise all pharmacies that arrangements have been put in place to reclaim these amounts @ £28 per MUR.

2. Prescribing Newer Inhalers

The general rule for prescribing is that prescriptions are written generically. There may be occasions where this is not appropriate e.g. when there are bioavailability issues, compound preparations or specific formulations recommended by BNF or local formulary. With the arrival of some newer inhaler devices it may be worth noting that on occasion writing generically could lead to different brands and/or devices being supplied causing confusion for the patient.

When a patient presents a prescription for "budesonide 200/formoterol 6" pharmacy systems may direct the pharmacy to supply either Duoresp[®] Spiromax or Symbicort[®] 200/6. To minimise confusion for the patient, it would be worth noting in the patient PMR which product has been previously supplied, if a repeat issue. If supplying for the first time, it would be sensible to ask if the prescriber had made a recommendation.

Electronic Prescription Service

- 3.** We would like to remind pharmacies that HSCIC have launched a tool that helps pharmacy teams to check the live working status of the Electronic Prescription Service. The pharmacy team is often made aware of patients having to make several trips or calls to surgeries and pharmacies in an effort to locate or receive their prescribed medication. This functionality allows pharmacies experiencing problems accessing or processing an electronic prescription to see at a glance if there is a national service issue. If it is not a national service issue, "it is likely to be a problem with their PMR system or with their local equipment or internet connection". See the HSCIC website for more details.

4. Drug Tariff

Please ensure that you have taken appropriate action if you want to continue receiving a monthly paper Drug Tariff. You should all have received a letter with this month's copy of the Drug Tariff asking pharmacists to access drug tariff information on-line going forward. Unless you email SBS-I.SWPSS@NHS.NET informing them that you want to keep on receiving a hard copy of the Drug Tariff, they will stop sending them and assume you will access the Drug Tariff on-line.

5. **PSNC Newsletter Extract re People with Asthma need better support; MUR target groups guide; 2 weeks until webinar; HSJ showcases pharmacy; Transfer of care e-programme**

Extract from the newsletter attached.

6. **FOR BNSSSG Pharmacies only – Free LGBT briefings for health professionals**

Poster attached for free LGBT briefings that the Diversity Trust is running in conjunction with Healthwatch projects in Bristol, B&NES, South Glos and Somerset.

These sessions, which are aimed specifically at health professionals such as dentists, pharmacists, GPs, practice nurses, reception/clerical staff, practice managers, allied health professionals and other health care providers, are being held following the publication of the LGBT health needs assessments that the Diversity Trust has carried out in South Glos. At the moment we are not offering this set of sessions to voluntary and community sector groups or council staff. **The findings from the assessment shows that greater awareness is required for people who work with and support the LGBT community, particularly among health professionals.** To see the full reports:

<http://www.diversitytrust.org.uk/news/?page=1>

The events are listed on The Care Forum website www.thecareforum.org and booking details are listed on the poster.

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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Devon and Cornwall pharmacies please continue to use the web site link:
<http://www.england.nhs.uk/south/pharm-info/dcis-pharm/> for Cornwall pharmacies opening hours directory; MUR guidance and Prem2d application forms; Blank templates for NMS and MUR returns; Forms for requesting changes to Core or Supplementary hours; Blank unplanned closure form; links to the Devon and Cornwall Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments (PNAs); Significant Incident reporting form; Serious Difficulty application form; Contact Details and log for 100 hour pharmacies.