

# Pharmacy Bulletin

19<sup>th</sup> November 2015

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

Apologies but we are still experiencing problems with the fax machine in the Saltash office, i.e. 01752 841696. If you need to send us anything please can we request that this is by e-mail or by post at the moment. Contact details are at the end of this E-Communication.

## **1. Draft Christmas / New Year pharmacy rotas**

We have now circulated final Christmas Bank Holiday rotas. Please can we ask you to check that your contact details and opening hours are correct. Please can you e-mail Sally Dutton [sally.dutton@nhs.net](mailto:sally.dutton@nhs.net) by Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November if you find there are amendments required. Finalised rotas are expected to be circulated during week commencing 30<sup>th</sup> November.

## **2. Join Dementia research - An opportunity for Community Pharmacies to help accelerate recruitment to dementia research studies in the South West**

Dementia affects 850,000 people in the UK and the only way we can achieve better understanding of this condition to improve treatments and quality of life is through clinical research. There are currently 14 dementia research studies being conducted in Devon, Cornwall and Somerset.

Join Dementia Research is a free service funded by the Department of Health in partnership with leading dementia charities. It is a register of volunteers – patients with diagnosed dementia, care givers and health members of the public – as an expression of their interest in participating in research studies. There is no pressure or expectation on agreeing to take part in a study if contacted by a research team. For the first time it means researchers recruiting to a study can access a register of people who will not mind being approached. This month over 950 people in the South West region registered with Join Dementia Research. It is hoped this approach will accelerate.

Raising awareness about this initiative locally is being managed by the NIHR Clinical Research Network. Community pharmacies are being invited to support this work by distributing Join Dementia Research information leaflets through their outlets. Where possible it would be useful to emphasise recruitment to clinical research is not restricted to people with dementia.

If you would be happy to support Join Dementia Research in this way through your pharmacies you can request the information leaflets, at no cost to you, from David Walker at the local Clinical Research Network by emailing [David.Walker13@nhs.net](mailto:David.Walker13@nhs.net) or calling 01752 431386. For information or to register online visit: [www.joindementiaresearch.nihr.ac.uk/](http://www.joindementiaresearch.nihr.ac.uk/)

### **3. Directing of Prescriptions**

We would like to ensure that all pharmacies are aware of the letter, statement and poster regarding Prescription Direction that was issued in October. Patients should have a choice as to where they collect their prescriptions from and not be influenced in any way as to which pharmacy to use.

For ease at finding the information issued please use the links below:

- The NHS England letter to GP practices and Pharmacies: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2015/09/directing-prescriptions-cov-letter.pdf>
- The joint statement from the GMC and GPhC: <http://psnc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Joint-statement-Patient-choice-and-team-work-at-the-heart-of-NHS-servi....pdf>
- The poster: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2015/09/poster-combatting-prescription.pdf>

### **4. Health Living Pharmacy (HLP) newsletter**

Public Health England has created a HLP e-newsletter which they are planning to publish on a quarterly basis to help raise awareness of HLPs. It contains lots of useful information and updates. Unfortunately, at the moment, this is only available via e-mail and as it quite a lengthy document we cannot include it here. If you would like to sign up to receive the quarterly HLP email, please email [hlpnewsletter@phe.gov.uk](mailto:hlpnewsletter@phe.gov.uk)

### **5. Next Contractual and Mandatory Public Health Campaign – Stay Well This Winter (attached)**

NHS England and Public Health England are running a joint campaign to offer simple advice with the aim of protecting those that are most vulnerable to falling seriously ill over the winter. Patients are being encouraged to seek help and advice from pharmacists.

All pharmacies will receive a campaign toolkit over the next couple of weeks so please look out for yours. The envelope will be marked “Stay well this winter”. Details of the pack contents are attached.

As this is contractual and mandatory we will expect participation from every pharmacy and, in due course, an evaluation form assessing the pharmacy’s involvement. This is not optional and all pharmacies will need to take part in this campaign.

### **6. Enhanced Service - Flu 2015/16**

We would like to thank all pharmacies that are participating in this local service. Now that the majority of practices are coming to the close of their targeted activity, we would like to urge pharmacies to continue to actively seek opportunities to provide this service to at risk patients who have not yet had their flu jab. We are particularly keen to target the 18-65 at

risk patient group, where uptake rates in GP practices have been historically low. Your help with improving uptake rates in this group is very much appreciated.

## **7. Controlled Drugs newsletter NS (new series) 2 (attached)**

Please see attached newsletter.

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](mailto: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](mailto:england.pharmacysouthwest@nhs.net) and we will add them to our distribution list.

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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/>