

Pharmacy Bulletin

21st January 2015

Welcome to this week's edition.

1. Volunteers wanted for Easter Sunday (5th April 2015)

We are experiencing difficulties finding one hour cover, preferably between the hours of 1.00pm and 5.00pm, for Easter Sunday in the following areas:-

Helston, Launceston, Barnstaple, Honiton and Seaton. If you can help us out we would love to hear from you. Please e-mail Sally sally.dutton@nhs.net or phone her on 01138248797 by 30th January.

2. Five year rotas for Christmas Day and Easter Sunday – volunteers wanted!

We are attempting to put together a 5 year pharmacy rota for Christmas Day and Easter Sunday across Devon and Cornwall. In order to alleviate the rush of suddenly finding out your pharmacy is being asked to open, this way, hopefully, you will have plenty of notice to arrange cover. To start the process we would like to ask for any pharmacy that is willing to volunteer to open on Christmas Day or Easter Sunday over the next 5 years up to 2019 to let us know by 30th January by e-mailing our generic mail box england.pharmacydevonandcornwall@nhs.net Usually the session is for one hour but could be for two hours if in a busy town centre. Reimbursement will be made at the current rates. We look forward to hearing from you and thank you to those pharmacies that have responded already.

3. CD Newsletter special edition January 2015 (attached)

Please see latest copy attached informing of Bridget Sampson's departure and changes to the CD team.

4. Certificates of Conformity

Please ensure that you promptly send any Certificates of Conformity to Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Area Team (Pharmacy), NHS England, Peninsula House, Kingsmill Road, Tamar View Industrial Estate, Saltash PL12 6LE. Please can you kindly double check the forms before sending as we have found that some details are missing, like costs involved. Do make sure please that you are **not including any patient details**, like name and address, and that these are blanked out.

As the spend on CoCs / Specials is escalating we will be working with the CCGs to monitor activity in this area. **If the prescriber has not provided details of the rationale for prescribing a 'special' then the pharmacist should contact them to discuss alternatives**

and to ensure a 'special' is appropriate. We would like to remind pharmacies that the first time a special is prescribed for a patient the need for a "special" should be determined and the pharmacist should ensure that prescriber is aware of the unlicensed status of the medicine. This consultation should be recorded on the patient's medication record for reference for future supplies of this "special".

The code of ethics for pharmacists states that pharmacist should make the best use of the resources available to them. The Royal Pharmaceutical Society encourages all pharmacists to ensure that the NHS secures good value from its expenditure, and recommends that pharmacists should bear this in mind in procurement of specials. Ideally this can be achieved by obtaining several quotes and using the one which represents the best balance of quality and cost effectiveness.

5. Out of Hours review

We will shortly be writing to pharmacies who provide the Out of Hours service as we need to review service provision. A simple template will be sent asking pharmacies to complete with numbers of scripts dispensed during their out of hours periods worked in February. Areas being reviewed are Axminster, Lynton, Okehampton, Ottery St Mary, South Molton and Liskeard.

6. MUR and NMS returns due for quarter Oct-Dec14

Lots of pharmacies have already submitted their MUR and NMS quarterly returns, thank you. If you haven't already completed your returns please find blank copies of the forms you will need on our web site (link under item 5 below). Please can you ensure that you include all of your pharmacy's address not just the name of the street. Often the name of the village/town is missing. When completed please e-mail to our generic mail box england.pharmacydevonandcornwall@nhs.net not Kath's!

7. NHS England Area Pharmacy team web site

Please use the link <http://www.england.nhs.uk/south/dcis-at/pharmacies> to access any of the following documents you may need:-

- Cornwall pharmacies opening hours directory – version 4 December 2014. (*Two new pharmacies listed in E-Communication of 15/1/15. Will be updated shortly.*)
- Blank templates for NMS and MUR returns for each quarter of 2014-15
- Forms for requesting changes to Core or Supplementary hours
- Blank unplanned closure template (*please use to report to the Area Team if your pharmacy has to close suddenly*)
- Web links to the Devon and Cornwall Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments (PNAs)
- Significant Incident reporting form
- Serious Difficulty application form
- Contact Details (*Smartcard contact details to be updated shortly. Shown in E-Communications of 15/1/15*)
- Log for 100 hour pharmacies

8. Kernow CCG Pharmacists evenings (attached)

Please see the attached form giving details of the events on 27th January and 3rd February.

If you have any articles you would like us to include in the weekly E-Communication then please let us know.

Janet, Sally, Kath & Stacey

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