

Pharmacy Bulletin

24th July 2014

Weekly E-Communication for Pharmacies

Welcome to this week's edition.

1. Spine 2 Transition rescheduled to 22-25 August

The [recent GP2GP newsletter](#) included an item about plans to move the NHS Spine to a new platform called Spine 2. The upgrade, which was initially planned for 25th-28th July, has been rescheduled for the 22nd-25th August. The Spine transition is a major technological change programme. The Spine provides the infrastructure that delivers access for GP practices to the PDS (Personal Demographics Service), and enables Smartcard logon and functionality, all an essential part of the patient registration process. The Health and Social Care Information Centre's top priority is that Spine services transition in a safe way that will have minimum disruption to the NHS and patients, and does not compromise the quality or safety of care provided. Whilst the majority of transition criteria are now in place for the transition, more time is needed for some of the final databases to be copied safely from the Spine.

In the meantime, the NHS Spine Service will continue to operate as normal. If your organisation has made any special arrangements for the core services transition, these will need to be reviewed in line with the rescheduled date. For further information on the transition, you can visit the [Spine pages](#) of the HSCIC website or contact the [Spine 2 mailbox](#). A further update on the Spine webpages will be issued prior to the transition taking place.

2. URM pads (Cornwall pharmacies only)

URM pads are now available. If you require any please complete the attached form and e-mail to our generic mail box england.pharmacydevonandcornwall@nhs.net

3. Enhanced Services Assurance Forms needed

Pharmacies participating in the Cornwall Enhanced Service scheme for Gluten Free, Minor Ailments or Urgent Repeat Medicines and pharmacies participating in the Devon Western Enhanced Service scheme (Derriford facing pharmacies) for Winter Ailments, Minor Ailments or Urgent Repeat Medicines are reminded once again that we do need a signed assurance form before these services are carried out.

We are finding that pharmacies are claiming for the services they have provided but have not submitted a signed assurance form to the Area Pharmacy Team. Please can you ensure that you

do this as soon as possible otherwise we will be unable to process your claim. Please speak to Sally if you have any questions/queries.

4. August Bank Holiday rotas

These were distributed by Sally (sally.dutton@nhs.net) by e-mail on 6th June.

We have found that some pharmacies were not displaying the May Bank Holiday rotas and so patients were unsure, if a pharmacy was closed, where the nearest pharmacy was and their opening times. Please can we ask you to display the August Bank Holiday rotas for pharmacies in your area so that patients are aware.

5. Christmas/New Year holiday temporary changes to core hours requests

As pharmacies start thinking about their arrangements for Christmas and New Year periods it is worth reminding you that NHS England has taken the view that those non-bank holiday days over the festive period are, in their nature, no different from any other non-bank holiday days. Therefore, any applications made to temporarily amend core hours will be refused. Whilst the Area Team appreciates that GP practices may not be open, out of hours provision will still be provided, which means it is essential that patients are still able to access local pharmacy services.

6. PNA Questionnaire

As you will be aware Local Authorities across the South West Peninsula are working collaboratively with stakeholders to develop their areas Pharmaceutical Needs Analysis (PNA). PNAs are very important documents as they inform decisions on the needs for new pharmacies and help with processing Control Of Entry applications. PNAs also help to inform the commissioning of Local Enhanced Services from pharmacies by NHS England.

Health and Wellbeing Boards are required to have updated PNAs in place by the 1st April 2015, and pharmacy contractors are being asked to complete the PNA questionnaire which is available via PharmOutcomes as a matter of urgency. It is vital that pharmacies provide the information being requested to ensure that NHS England commission services where needed and to help protect existing services.

A big thank you to those pharmacies who have already completed this questionnaire.

If you have any queries regarding this piece of work your Local Pharmaceutical Committee and Area Team will be happy to help.

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

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