

# Pharmacy Bulletin

5<sup>th</sup> June 2014

## Weekly E-Communication for Pharmacies

Welcome to this week's edition.

### **1. FINAL REMINDER!!!!**

Pharmacies taking part in NEW Devon CCG Western Locality Enhanced Services from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 were asked to sign assurance forms and PGD forms. **Services should not be supplied without these forms being signed beforehand.** We have sent several reminders and have also been assisted by the LPC to chase these returns. If you wish to take part please e-mail your signed forms to our generic mail box [england.pharmacydevonandcornwall@nhs.net](mailto:england.pharmacydevonandcornwall@nhs.net) or fax to 01752 841696.

We regret but unless the signed forms are returned to the Area Pharmacy Team by **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June** your pharmacy will no longer be able to supply these Enhanced Services and no claims will be paid.

### **2. End of year requirements**

Again another reminder **of the** documentation we need to receive **from you**;

Complaints annual report

Patient questionnaire survey (with action plan)

In-house Pharmacy based audit (of your choice)

MUR returns for each quarter of 2013/4

NMS returns for each quarter of 2013/4

CPAF for 2013/4 updated for those areas reported as non-compliant

When completed please e-mail documentation to our generic mail box

[england.pharmacydevonandcornwall@nhs.net](mailto:england.pharmacydevonandcornwall@nhs.net)

***Please can you double check that we have received all of the above from your pharmacy.*** We will be monitoring and contacting pharmacies who fail to submit these returns.

### **3. Be Clear on Cancer (1<sup>st</sup> Pharmacy Health Campaign 2014/15)**

Just in case you did not read last week's newsletter we want to remind pharmacies that the first of this year's Health promotional campaigns will be starting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June, running for 5 weeks. The campaign will support the **Be Clear on Cancer** campaign that will be running across the South West region during this period. More details will follow shortly via

an e-mail letter to individual pharmacies. Pharmacies will be provided with promotional materials for this campaign with the opportunity to order additional material.  
*More details will be emailed shortly.*

#### **4. Payments for Easter**

If NHS England asked your pharmacy to open on Good Friday, Easter Sunday or Easter Monday payments have now been requested for your one hour requested session. There is no need for you to submit an invoice. We have been informed that these payments will be made on 1<sup>st</sup> July.

#### **5. Parkinson's awareness**

Please use the link below to view the Parkinson's UK leaflet to see some of the issues people face.

[http://www.parkinsons.org.uk/sites/default/files/publications/download/english/b0148\\_keyinformationforcommunitypharmacists.pdf](http://www.parkinsons.org.uk/sites/default/files/publications/download/english/b0148_keyinformationforcommunitypharmacists.pdf)

#### **6. RPS guidance on changes to Controlled Drug legislation (guidance attached)**

As from 10<sup>th</sup> June, changes to the classification of a number of drugs including tramadol and zopiclone will come into force. Please see the attached guidance issued by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society for details. This document contains some frequently asked questions regarding how these changes may affect practice within your pharmacy.

#### **7. Patients forgetting their medicines**

As the summer approaches and visitor numbers increase, we could see an increase in medication needs from visitors using our local practices and pharmacies. With the increase of EPS use across the country, patients can obtain their medication from their registered GP practice if they are using EPS. The patient can then name a pharmacy local to where they are staying without the need to make an appointment with a local GP. Practices live with EPSr2 can be found here: <http://systems.hscic.gov.uk/eps/stats/gpsites.xls>

The Medicines Optimisation team, South Devon & Torbay CCG have requested for all pharmacies in Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly that if a patient who has forgotten their medication comes into your pharmacy, you refer them to their own GP, who can then request an electronic prescription is sent to you. Where their home GP is not live with EPS, please consider referring them to a local surgery or issuing an emergency supply.

#### **8. Discontinuation of Metformin Sachets-Don't just switch to the liquid**

Pharmacies need to be aware of the advice below issued to GP practices in Devon and Cornwall to manage the discontinuation of metformin sachets. Please ensure that patients are counselled accordingly in line with these recommendations. Metformin sachets (500mg and 1000mg) have been discontinued and supplies are likely to become unavailable imminently.

Whilst a licensed 500mg/5ml liquid exists, the additional cost to the Cornwall health economy should everyone be switched to this product will be **£70,000 per year**. For Devon the figure is **£250,000**.

Therefore we ask that prescribers consider the following points when deciding on an alternative formulation:

1. Reassess the patient's ability to swallow tablets, e.g. has the dysphagia improved? Consider a switch to licensed tablets if appropriate
2. Pharmacies may be able to source both round or oblong tablets to help support some patients to swallow tablets. Teva manufacture an oval brand for instance.
3. Metformin MR tablets, e.g. Glucophage SR are capsule shaped and may be easier to swallow. Whilst more expensive than standard metformin, they are significantly cheaper than the liquid
4. Standard tablets can be crushed, but this is off-licence and the tablets are very hard. For PEG patients, the tablet can be crushed and mixed with water
5. If the above options are not suitable, or following an unsuccessful trial, then the 500mg/5ml liquid could be considered

### **9. Out of Hours posters – please check**

Community pharmacies have posters informing the general public of Out of Hours (Serco) and how to contact them. The posters have the Serco 0845 number on them. With the phased switchover to NHS 111, the posters need to be removed. Another tranche of practices change their messages to 111 on June 10<sup>th</sup> in Cornwall and Isles of Scilly. Call centre staff numbers have been reduced as this handover takes place therefore it is important to remove the posters to avoid confusion.

Devon pharmacies might like to check their posters too.

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

Janet, James, Sally, Kath & Stacey

Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Area Team – Pharmacy  
NHS England  
Peninsula House  
Kingsmill Road  
Tamar View Industrial Estate  
Saltash PL12 6LE

***Kath is currently off sick so please direct your e-mail/telephone call to another member of the team.***

***James is on leave and out of the office from 28<sup>th</sup> May. He will be back in the office on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June***

	E-mail	Telephone
Janet Newport	<a href="mailto:Janet.newport@nhs.net">Janet.newport@nhs.net</a>	01138248777
James Glanville	<a href="mailto:james.glanville1@nhs.net">james.glanville1@nhs.net</a>	01138248775

Sally Dutton	<a href="mailto:sally.dutton@nhs.net">sally.dutton@nhs.net</a>	01138248797
Kath Hughes	<a href="mailto:kathrynhughes2@nhs.net">kathrynhughes2@nhs.net</a>	01138248784
Stacey Burch	<a href="mailto:stacey.burch@nhs.net">stacey.burch@nhs.net</a>	01138248801
Reception		01752 679250
Fax		01752 841696