

Pharmacy Bulletin

27th August 2015

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

1. Changes to Christmas / New Year opening times – please let us know asap

Pharmacies are entitled to be closed (subject to any specific direction to open issued by NHS England) on the three public/bank holidays on Friday 25 December, Monday 28 December and Friday 1 January. We will be contacting those pharmacies we need to direct to open on Christmas Day, 28th December or 1st January shortly. If you would like to volunteer to be open on any of these three days please let us know as soon as possible (the usual Christmas rota payments will be paid).

For the other days over the Christmas / New Year period, including Saturday 26 December, pharmacies are expected to open for their usual opening hours unless any changes to supplementary hours have been notified in writing to NHS England (Saltash office) at least 90 days in advance. NHS England expects all pharmacies to be open for their core hours on these days. If you do intend to change your supplementary hours on any of these days, please let us know soon as possible so that we can ensure that there is enough pharmacy cover on all days.

2. August Bank Holiday rotas

Devon, Cornwall, Bristol, North Somerset, Somerset and South Gloucestershire

If you need a copy of any of the rota sheets please visit our web site

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/south/pharm-info/dcis-pharm/>

Please note East Devon and Teignmouth rota sheets have been updated with a change of address for Lloyds, Church Street, Sidford to The Beacon Medical Centre, Sedemunda Road, Sidmouth and Boots, Queens Street, Newton Abbot has closed.

3. Blister packs

You may recall that we recently asked pharmacies to get in touch if they were receiving requests for blister packs at very short notice, or if patients were being discharged from hospital without their meds. We would like to thank those of you who have taken the time to share with us their experiences. It is evidently still an issue in some areas, with some partners being regular offenders. In order to support you with this can we ask that in the future as the issues occur you either complete an incident form or send a quick email so that we can contact you or the hospital etc. to address the issues as they occur and “strike whilst the iron is hot” so to speak. Please be assured that we want to support you with this issue which could directly affect patient safety.

4. UK licensed formulation of midodrine now available

A UK licensed brand of midodrine tablets (Bramox®) is now available from wholesalers. Bramox® is indicated for treating severe orthostatic hypotension due to autonomic dysfunction when corrective factors have been ruled out and other forms of treatment are inadequate. Both 2.5mg and 5mg strength tablets are available and should be supplied instead of the imported product.

5. EPS event (attachment)

Please see the attached Pharmacy Training Factsheet for details of how to register for Electronic Prescription Service Release 2 free refresher training for dispensing staff. Over 200 events are being organised nationally by the EPS team at HSCIC. Plymouth dates have been released, and other dates will follow – all events will be on the various LPC websites.

6. National Registration Authority policy (attached)

Please see policy attached.

7. Vaccine update

Please use the link to view latest issue <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vaccine-update-issue-231-july-to-august-2015>

8. Pharmacy Health Promotion Campaign “Breast Cancer awareness in women over 70” for August 2015

We hope that the Be Clear on Cancer campaign “Breast Cancer awareness for the over 70’s” is going well. If you have any questions about the campaign please contact partnerships@phe.gov.uk Please note that this campaign is due to run until 31st August. We have already received a few evaluation forms but cannot accept these as the campaign is still running. Please ensure that you **do not send us your forms until after 31st August at the end of the scheme.** We cannot get a true picture yet of how the campaign has been received if the forms are sent to us early.

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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