

Pharmacy Bulletin

13th August 2015

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

1. Blister packs (Devon and Cornwall pharmacies only)

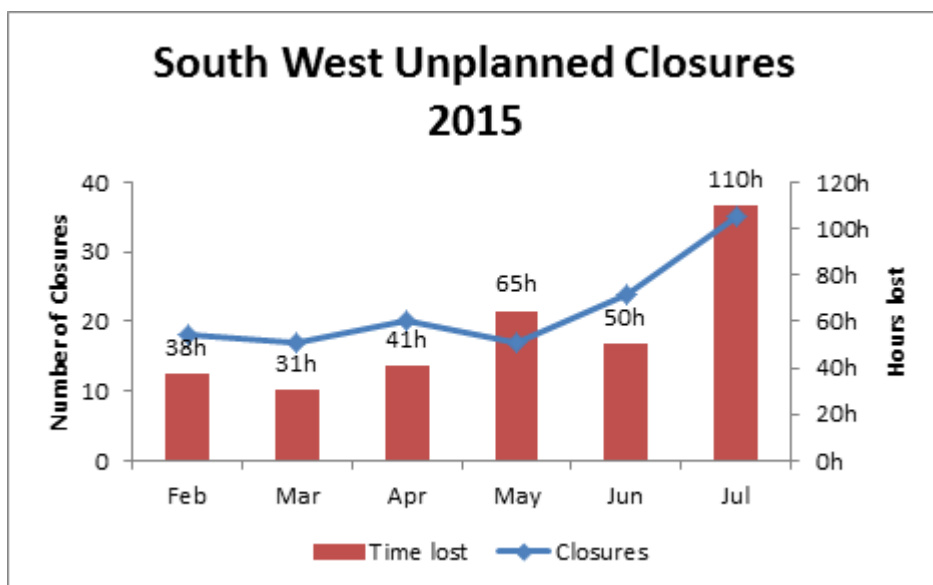
Back in February we were advised that many pharmacies in Devon and Cornwall were being asked to prepare blister packs with very short notice and in some cases patients being discharged with only one week's medication. We have been informed that this is still happening but have not received any concerns direct from pharmacies. Please can you reply to our generic mail box if you are still experiencing this england.pharmacydevonandcornwall@nhs.net

2. Unplanned closures (all pharmacies)

NHS England South (South West) has become concerned about the increasing number of unplanned closures of pharmacies. The following chart shows the number of closures and the number of hours of opening lost over the past 6 months. Recently there have been a significant number of instances of pharmacies being closed all day because there was no pharmacist present. Breach notices have been issued in several cases.

We would encourage all contractors to review the systems they have in place for staffing pharmacies, and in particular for booking and double-checking bookings with locums, ensuring that locums open the pharmacy on time, and sourcing emergency locums in the event of sudden unavailability due to sickness.

There have also been a number of instances recently of closures not being reported to us, which we have then found out about from community health services or by other routes. Please ensure that all unplanned closures are reported to NHS England using the form available at <http://www.england.nhs.uk/south/our-work/pharm-info/dcis-pharm/> which should be sent to the contact details below.



3. Contact to Cornwall Health Out of Hours (Cornwall pharmacies only)

If any community pharmacy in the county needs to contact Cornwall Health with regards to a prescription that they have issued, please can you contact Cornwall Health directly on 01872 224045. This number is for pharmacy use only and should not be given out to patients. Please note, this only applies to prescriptions they have issued. For any other requests, patients will need to contact 111 and follow the correct process.

4. August Bank Holiday rotas

Bristol, North Somerset, Somerset and South Gloucestershire – please see the rotas which were sent out by email earlier this week.

Devon – The following rota sheets have been amended and revised versions have been added to our web site:

East Devon – Lloyds, Sidmouth – change of address Teignbridge – Boots, Queen Street, Newton Abbot – closed

If you need a copy of any of the rota sheets for Devon or Cornwall please visit our web site <http://www.england.nhs.uk/south/pharm-info/dcis-pharm/>

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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