



WELCOME TO OUR
NORTHANTS AND MK
NEWSLETTER



AMENDING THE
CONSTITUTION VOTE
NOW



NORTHANTS AND MK LPC NEWS



Will David Cameron still be our Prime Minister after May 7th or will he be unseated by Ed Miliband ? Will Nigel Farage upset the status quo? Are we going to see another coalition? Join me in hoping , that as pharmacists and working within a health profession that we have a number of informed friends and allies who are also doing a useful job for the community and are not falling victim to ill-founded bureaucratic intervention or misuse of political power. Electoral power but not at the expense of public welfare.

The current model LPC constitution is being amended to update the provisions to include : collaborative working with other LPC's, preparation of annual budget, support for contracting vehicles, replacement of 8% rule for determining certain places on the LPC with proportionality, information sharing with NHS England and improvements to the election process. A special meeting on 21st May 2015 shall give the contractors the opportunity to ask questions about the process and register a vote. The venue for the meeting is Holiday Inn, Flore, NN7 4LP. You are welcome from 17.30. You do not have to attend and may choose instead to vote using the electronic form sent by e mail to you. Please do vote. The constitution will be successfully amended with a two thirds majority in favour and will enable the LPC to continue to improve and support our representation to you.

13015 people have claimed that indeed they are and you can join them in the battle against antibiotic resistance. Why is it relevant to you: Without effective antibiotics many routine treatments will become increasingly dangerous. Setting broken bones, basic operations, even chemotherapy all rely on access to antibiotics that work. To slow resistance we need to cut the use of unnecessary antibiotics. Choose one simple pledge about you'll make better use of antibiotics and help save this vital medicine from becoming obsolete. [click here](#) . Nene CCG coordinates an infection prevention meeting and ahead of attending I intend to take the pledge. Will you?

You may be getting questions from patients hoping that the days of routine glucose testing with lancets, test strips and blood are over. They have been using flash glucose monitoring. The Freestyle Libre uses a small sensor the size of a 50 pence piece and automatically measures and continually stores glucose readings day and night. This clever little device would appear to be life-changing. You can learn more about the product if you [click here](#) . Unfortunately many patients hoping to experience prick free testing are to be disappointed since neither monitor nor lancets are currently available to buy due to supply issues. Nene CCG are unable to comment on future availability on FP10 since they are not privy to Drug Tariff plans. They do agree that the system has a place for some patients but feel that the cost is considerably more expensive than existing monitoring products. If and when it becomes available on FP10 the Medicines Management team would work with specialist nurses to define its place.

Vote on adopting the PSNC model LPC constitution



Are you an Antibiotic Guardian?



Abbotts Flash continuous glucose monitoring



Nikki Woodhall, Senior Medicines Management Technician at Milton Keynes CCG pointed out that the device may not be able to replace blood glucose monitoring as we know it and therefore hidden costs could not be overlooked. There is clearly potentially useful development in terms of blood glucose sensing but the fact that the sensor measures glucose in the interstitial fluid rather than in the blood is an important consideration. Changes in the interstitial fluid lags behind changes in blood sugar levels. If the blood sugar level was falling quickly then wearers could be developing hypoglycaemia before the sensor detects the low sugar values. There may only be a particular cohort of patients who would benefit from using the sensor alone and it is possibly these patients that Sue Smith at Nene CCG could potentially envisage having access in the future to the device should it become allowable on FP10.

Vitamin D

The Northamptonshire Vitamin D guidelines were revised recently and the formulary choices became InVita D3 and Fultium D3. High cost ,unlicensed specials should be avoided. Komal George, Head of Dispensing and Supply at PSNC advises a number of licensed Vitamin D preparations are due to enter the Drug tariff next month. Keep an eye on how these impact on local prescribing guidance.

Thank you for your comments around branded generic prescribing .PSNC is completely against this practice and OFT agrees that the practice is not in the best interests on the NHS. Furthermore frequent changes to prescribing could also be detrimental to patient care. Changing brands can create confusion to patients and can undermine their confidence in medicines. Locally our CCG's have gone to great lengths to communicate policies to surgeries and contractors in the hope that pharmacy funding will not be undermined and supply chain mechanisms will be unaffected. If you do not have sight of the local policies please ask me for copies. Remember also that the latest edition of Tablet Press is on our website.

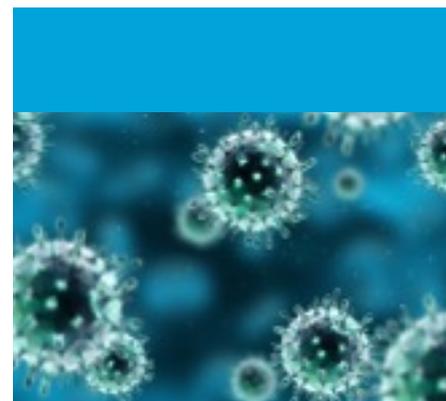
*Another point to consider:
Do the DVLA recognise this device as a testing option?*



Flu season ahead

I hope that you have all received a letter of thanks from Dr. Cath Fenton on behalf of PHE and NHS England Central Midlands. Recognition of the contribution from pharmacy in helping to deliver a complex flu programme is to be congratulated. This was reiterated today by Barbara Hamill and Jacki Collett at a Flu Planning Task sub-group. The main Task group has met on three occasions but Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and our own LPC felt that agenda items specific to pharmacy should be addressed away from the large main group. We are delighted to share in the successful implementation of the 2014/15 campaign but feel strongly that much can be learned moving into next season and helping achieve levels of uptake closer to the desired 75%. The LPC's identified four main areas of concern having listened to the issues raised by our contractors. For example Sonar IT solution, introduced for the first time in 2014/15 seemed to be a major point of contention. It is not disputed that a robust IT system needs to be commissioned but LPC's have pushed to have a greater voice during the decision making process for the season ahead. We have also asked that once the SLA is in place that no alterations may be permitted and that the SLA is less of a template and more specific to us (not London). Timescales around circulation of the PGD and SLS were also felt to be unacceptably short and we highlighted examples of this. All of the matters raised by us have now been translated into action points. Finally pharmacies highlighted poor communications in many areas and we hope that this can be improved upon going forward. Hopefully by our next newsletter I will have more concrete plans to share with you with regard to finance and core specification.

More thanks were coming to pharmacies for those who played a key role in linking 247 carers to local carers support. Julia Ellis, Development Manager for Primary Care and Community Reach at Carers Trust writes: "Over the past few months, thanks to the kindness and hard work of frontline staff in our Carer-friendly Pharmacies and expert help of local carers organisations, 247 carers now have the key to potentially life-changing support."



*Target and support
low performing
practices*

*With a few words
of encouragement
from a familiar
face many carers'
lives have changed*





I would like to say a big thank you to the pharmacies in Northants for responding to my requests for help with hosting Carers' outreach during Carers' week in June. We have successfully filled the whole week and have been able to offer Louise access to a pharmacy in each of our 7 LA areas. Lloyds in Watling Street, Towcester, Superdrug in Wellingborough, Thursfield's Kettering, Tesco Corby, Sainsbury at Sixfields, Boots in Bowen Street, Daventry and Dipesh in Lloyds, Meadow Lane, Raunds.



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[Our website](#)

Coming next month Check 34 and using the declaration of competence .

