

- **Medicines Management Materials on the Primary Care Portal**

Please be aware that the Medicines Management materials that were on Pathfinder were moved to the Primary Care Portal in November 2018. Many users are very positive about the new website as they like the improved search function, user-friendly interface and the fact that it is also accessible on a tablet or smartphone. The information on the site is intended for health care staff in Northamptonshire, so please do not share the link with patients/members of the public. If you require the link please contact Sue Barron on [susan.barron@nhs.net](mailto:susan.barron@nhs.net)

- **Medication out of stock and supply issues**

In order to assist health care professionals with medication stock issues a page on the Primary Care Portal has been created which provides monthly updates, communications on supply issues for specific products e.g. diamorphine and microgynon and a useful link to the MIMS drug shortage tracker.

- **Yellow Card Reporting: the importance of reporting**

Unfortunately 2018 saw a fall in reporting of suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) to the Yellow Card Scheme from key reporter groups, including GPs, pharmacists, and hospital doctors. It is important these groups continue to report as some adverse drug reactions can only be identified when medicines are used for a long time in a wide range of different people. There are many examples of when the Scheme has helped identify safety issues.

Yellow Cards can be used for reporting suspected adverse drug reactions associated with misuse, overdose, or medication errors, or from use of unlicensed and off-label medicines.

You should report all suspected adverse drug reactions that are serious, medically significant, result in harm, or are associated with medication errors where harm occurs. Events associated with newer drugs and vaccines (▼) should be reported irrespective of whether they are serious or not. You can report online at [www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard) or through clinical systems.

- **Videos on how to use inhalers from Asthma UK**

Studies have shown that a significant number of patients and health care professional do not know the correct technique for using inhalers. Asthma UK has produced videos for each inhaler device. It is recommended the videos are used by health care professionals when discussing inhaler technique with patients. The link to the videos is available on the Primary Care Portal. Patients should also be given the link <https://www.asthma.org.uk/inhalervideos> and encouraged to watch the relevant videos

- **Cleaning Inhalers**

A few patients have reported that their inhaler was not working properly when in actual fact it needed cleaning. Please remind patients that they should clean their inhalers every few weeks.

- **Cleaning a MDI:**

- Remove the metal canister from the plastic casing of the inhaler and remove the mouthpiece cover.
- Rinse the plastic casing thoroughly under warm running water.
- Dry the plastic casing thoroughly inside and out.
- Put the metal canister into the plastic casing, test it by releasing a single puff into the air and replace the mouthpiece cover.

- **Cleaning a dry powder inhaler**

- Wipe the mouthpiece of your dry-powder inhaler with a dry cloth at least once a week.
- Do NOT use water to wipe the dry powder inhaler because the powder is sensitive to moisture.

- **The BMJ has stopped carrying adverts for Formula Milk**

The BMJ has announced that it will stop carrying advertisements for formula milk due to concerns about the general decline in breastfeeding rates and in addition the overdiagnosis and overtreatment of cow's milk protein allergy (CMPA) <https://www.bmj.com/content/364/bmj.l1279> . If CMPA is suspected please refer to the guidance on the Primary Care Portal.

This edition is also available on GP Portal via the following link  
<http://gp.neneccg.nhs.uk/> and <http://gp.corbyccg.nhs.uk/>

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