

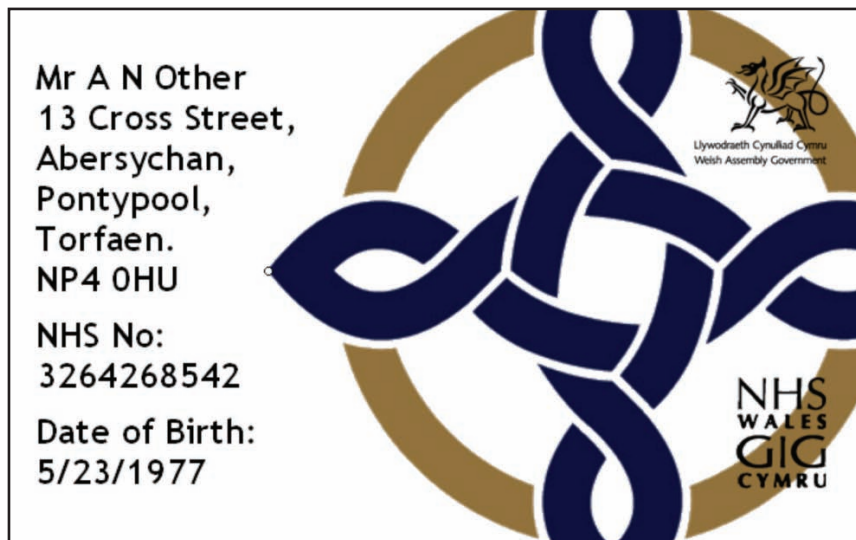


COMMUNITY PHARMACY WALES *Newsletter*



Issue 12 Summer 2006

Entitlement Card



NHS Wales Entitlement to Prescription Charges at Welsh Rates	GIG Cymru Hawl i Gostau Presgripsiwn sy'n unol â Chyfraddau Cymru
If found please return to: BSC South East Region, Cwmbran House, Mamhilad Park Estate, Pontypool, Torfaen. NP4 0XS	Os darganfyddir, dychweler I; Canolfan Gwasanaethau Busnes, Tŷ Cwmbrân, Ystad Parc Mamhilad, Pontypŵl, Tor-faen. NP4 0XS

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Entitlement Cards
- Cross Border Issues
- CPW Central Chairman Elected
- National Enhanced Services
- Oxygen Issues
- Contractors O2 Success
- Dispenser Services User Group
- IM & T Programme
- LHB Vacancies





Chief Executive

Introduction by Chief Executive:

Welcome to the summer edition of the CPW newsletter. The Committee and Executive have continued to work hard on your behalf in addressing your concerns and issues with both the Welsh Assembly Government and our strategic partners. Since the last issue in the spring we have maintained our efforts in the negotiation of the National Enhanced Services with the Local Health Boards and, though this has proved far more difficult and frustrating than we initially envisaged, we are determined to see it through to a successful outcome. There is more detail on the status of our negotiations in this newsletter and regular updates will be provided on our web page at www.cpwales.org.uk



Other issues that have concentrated our minds and which are covered in more detail in the body of this newsletter are the transfer of the home Oxygen Service to Air Products which is due to be completed by 31 July 2006; the introduction of the Entitlement Card for reduced prescription charges for those Welsh residents registered with an English GP; the update of the regulations for Controlled Drugs as well as responding on your behalf to consultation papers published by the Welsh Assembly Government. We have also been in discussions with Health Solutions Wales to ensure that information you receive from them is valid and that the WP34c is fit for purpose. We have met with our GP colleagues to address the poor take up rate for Repeat Dispensing and the indifferent approach to the advanced services within GP practices. Whilst there are no simple solutions we continue to work hard to get the principles widely accepted by our professional colleagues but it rests firmly with the contractor to work closely with GP practices to ensure delivery on the ground.

On the joint front we have been involved with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain and the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee in the development of a Service Continuity Planning: A Guide for Community Pharmacists in England, Wales and Scotland. I commend this guide to you as it highlights the criticality of continuity planning in order that you can ensure the continuation of critical services to patients. A copy of the guide can be accessed on the PSNC web page at www.psn.org.uk/publications

I am also able to inform you that your chairman, Mr Phil Parry has been re-elected for a further year of office as has the Vice Chair, Mr Peter John Jones.

Please continue to provide feedback on any issues you are facing in your pharmacy, either via your Regional Executive or directly to the Cardiff office, or on any wider points that we can support you with in your discussions with your Local Health Board or other colleagues in Primary Care. We are here to provide a service and support to you in the delivery of the pharmacy contract – our door is always open as are the phone lines – we look forward to hearing from you.

CPW Central Committee news Annual Elections of Chair & Vice Chair

Elections of Officers for the coming year were conducted at the May meeting and the following officers were elected:

Chairman elected for 2006/07 Mr Phil Parry FRPharmS

Vice-Chair elected for 2006/07 Mr Peter John Jones MRPharmS

Raj Aggarwal replaces Huw Grove as an independent representative on Central Committee

National Enhanced Services in Wales

Negotiations have taken place between the Local Health Boards (LHBs) and CPW to try and reach an agreement of 'Benchmark Prices' for 5 National Enhanced Services in Wales.

Benchmark Prices for these services are recognised nationally, but it is up to the individual LHBs as to whether they will commission the services locally.

CPW has been working very hard on your behalf to agree a fair service rate that adequately reflects the costs involved in providing these services and a fair return.

Template Service Level Agreements (SLAs) for all these services have been agreed and published by the WAG.

CPW can currently advise you that agreement has been reached on 3 services nationally:

- Care Home Support
- Additional Hours (formerly Rota)
- Minor Ailments

CPW would recommend that you work with your Regional Executive/Committee to ensure that your LHB adopts these rates. If the LHB decides against paying these rates you may wish to reconsider your position with regards to the continuation of the services you may already provide.

At this present time no agreement has been reached on Benchmark Prices for:

- Supervised Administration (base service)
 - supervised administration for Methadone
 - supervised administration for Subutex
- Needle & Syringe Exchange

Negotiations continue on these services and we would recommend you contact CPW if you have any queries or concerns with these services.

We hope that you will support your committee on the robust line being taking with the Local Health Boards on these negotiations.

We will continue to provide updates on the continuing negotiations. Please also monitor the news page of our website www.cpwales.org.uk or contact Catherine Stanley.

Disability Discrimination Act and Appliance Aids

WAG are currently finalising a date for a meeting on Appliance Aids and Monitored Dosage Systems(MDS) in particular to be held soon. CPW will have representation at this meeting which it is hoped will involve Social Services.



COMMUNITY PHARMACY WALES

Oxygen issues in Wales

CPW are monitoring the action plans taking the final handover to the new contractor in Wales (Air Products) forward. CPW continue to focus on the exit strategy for community pharmacy, compensation and the final handover date for the service.

At the time of going to press LHBs are mapping on a local basis the final number of patients that will require new supply in their Areas. This will finalise the information they require for the Action Plans. The backlog originally experienced by Air Products was cleared at the end of May which leaves the anticipated date of 31st July 2006 for the complete handover to Air Products. However as each LHB is responsible for its individual plan, your local queries should be directed to your LHB in the first instance.

The new contract and associated difficulties have now been referred to the Auditor General in Wales the date for its review is expected to be announced shortly. Oxygen will remain an item on the Agenda of The Welsh Assembly Government Health and Social Services Committee until Assembly Members are satisfied that the new contract has been full implemented by Air Products.

NHS Primary Care Contracting have advised that pharmacy contractors will continue to be reimbursed for oxygen cylinders, the DH intend to keep oxygen cylinders in the Drug Tariff after the end of July for instances where new supplier companies are unable to provide.

Any updates will be advised ASAP. Please also monitor the News section of our webpage (www.cpwales.org.uk) alternatively contact Catherine Stanley or your Regional Exec.

Contractors personal O2 success

Pharmacy contractor Sean Woodward has successfully claimed more than £300 of charges for out of pocket expenses on



large oxygen cylinders for the period July to December 05. Mr Woodward sent a customised NPA template letter along with copy of statements to Pricing in April and has now been told his expenses will be reimbursed. His claim sets a precedent, and he urges oxygen contractors to place claims and not just to give up.

The letter used is available from NPA.

Please share with CPW of any personal experiences that you are having locally with your continuing service and reimbursement.

VAT

Guidance is available from PSNC. In Wales HSW has agreed to the addition of an information box to contractors statements (WP34c) such that with effect from May dispensing it will state the percentages (10/19/33 & 38) specific to that contractors Practice Payment total on that statement.

WAG Pricing issues in Wales

Nurse Prescribing;

Pharmacies are reporting some nurse prescribers using the extended formulary list and seeking guidance. WAG have confirmed in the following statements;

Q1) Please advise if training has now gone ahead in Wales by Nurse prescribers for Extended formulary?

A1) *“We have neither approved the introduction of, nor provided training for Extended Formulary Nurse Prescribing. The Extended Nurse Prescribers' Formulary at the back of the BNF and also in the DT Part XVllB(ii) cannot be used in Wales.*

We have provided training for, and introduced supplementary prescribing by nurses and pharmacists, but these can only prescribe in accordance with the clinical management plan (CMP) that has been produced by the independent prescriber; and agreed with the supplementary prescriber and patient. With the exception of CDs, a supplementary prescriber may prescribe any medicine in accordance with the CMP i.e. there is no formulary.

As the Minister has recently agreed to the development of independent prescribing by

nurses and pharmacists, it is unlikely that the extended formulary will ever be used in Wales.

In conclusion, no nurse in Wales may use the extended formulary.”

Q2) Is Wales aligning with England for the new "Nurse Independent Prescribers", which is replacing the "Nurse Prescribers' Extended Formulary" in England. (page 485 of the May 2006 England & Wales Drug Tariff.)

A2) *“The Minister has accepted the principle of independent prescribing for Wales. How it will be implemented is being considered by a project board and the DT references are therefore specific to England only at this time*

First Phase Nurse Prescribers (district nurses & health visitors) can only prescribe drugs listed in the Nurse Prescribers' Formulary at the back of the BNF and also in the DT Part XVllB(i).”

PRACTICE PAYMENTS

Contractors are reminded to make sure they complete and submit the CURRENT form (revised Oct 2005) at month end. If the old form is completed the Practice payment received will be incorrect.

Dispenser Services User Group:

The group has been working in taking forward the following issues;

- VAT implications. An information box stating the percentages (10/19/33 & 38) specific to that contractor Practice payment total on that statement (WP 34c) will be printed for information.
- Simplification of the Drug Tariff
- WP34 Statements; April statements will be issued on the new style form DSUG have been working towards. Future changes will include

clear identification of Enhanced Service payments and clearly state which dates the payment relates to and a Special itemised listing.

- A trial will take place to give contractors choice prior to full connectivity to receive their WP34 by e-mail.

If you have anything you wish raised in this group please contact Catherine Stanley





COMMUNITY PHARMACY WALES

Cross Border issues / Entitlement Cards

Health Minister Dr Brian Gibbons will visit 2 North Wales pharmacies on Friday, 26 May to outline details of a new prescription entitlement card. Legislation for the entitlement scheme is expected to be published soon.

The Welsh Assembly Government released a statement for the visits:

"The card will allow Welsh residents who are registered with an English GP the opportunity to benefit from the reduced prescription charges in Wales. By April 2007 prescriptions will be free in Wales. These patients have been unable to benefit from lower charges since the introduction of a bilingual prescription form in August 2005 that is only available from a Welsh GP or hospital. This was introduced to reduce the growing risk of attracting

health tourists to take advantage of lower charges.

It is expected that people will be able to benefit from the new cards once the appropriate legislation has been amended.

There are about 14,000 Welsh patients registered with an English GP, but it is estimated that around half of these are already exempt from paying for prescriptions due to age, medical condition or low income.

This new card will allow the remaining 7,000 patients the opportunity to benefit from the reduced charges by presenting their entitlement card at a Welsh pharmacy."

Guidance for the change in Regulations and use of the Entitlement Card is in the enclosed letter and available on the CPW Webpage (news section).

Advanced Services

MUR uptake in Wales in general is still poor. We urge those not yet providing this service to embrace and deliver MURs. CPW are still able to help facilitate one day accreditation workshops with Pharmacy Alliance and are also working with Numark to provide post accreditation practical workshops for all contractors.

Examples of best practice with MURs are invited from those already forging ahead with advanced

services. Some contractors have or are near to exceeding their MUR limit. The DH has released guidance to these contractors. Any MURs carried out over the limit will not be paid for. The WAG are currently reviewing the limit for this year.

If you have any queries on Advanced Services limit and workshops please contact Catherine Stanley (029 2044 2072).

FP57/WP57

WAG advise the position is that a pharmacist in Wales can only refund a WP57 and not a FP57.

It is their understanding that England will refund a WP57 if it is presented at a pharmacy in

England – and that is a policy matter for DH.

They are requesting to have the Drug Tariff amended on Sections relating to WP57 Refunds so that instruction is clearer.

Community Pharmacy IM & T Programme – Stakeholder Update

The Primary Care IM & T Programme has released its first 'Stakeholder Update' on Pharmacy IM & T developments (available on CPW website).

The release covers activities since the Community Pharmacy IM & T Programme 'Start Up' last Autumn.

It is designed to give background information to the Programme and details of its approach to Pharmacy IM & T in Wales, in support of the Community Pharmacy Contract introduced in April 2005.

The second edition is anticipated to be released in August/September 2006, following progress with the activities and work streams of the next Stage Plan and Programme Board.

CD Regs

Contractors are reminded of the changes to the management of CDs. Guidance from RPSGB with regard to each Home Country is available on CPW Webpage (news).

Child Protection

Clarity has been requested by contractors for guidance on Child Protection. Full guidance is available from RPSGB. If you have a query from a contractual perspective please contact your Regional Executive.

Pharmacy running ahead.....

Wanted runners, walkers and eaters



CPW are fully supporting the pharmacy team that is entering the Cardiff Marathon / Half Marathon on 15th October 2006 in order to raise funds for the Kidney Foundation, Wales. Personnel throughout Pharmacy (in England & Wales) along with their friends and

families have signed up to take part in Cardiff's Marathon/Half Marathon running/walking as part of the Pharmacy led team. Pharmacists are combining in force, inviting other Healthcare Professions and friends to join and support the team with their attempt at breaking a fund raising record for the Kidney Wales Foundation on 15th October 2006. You can also support us by joining us for the Gala dinner, tickets £45/person, tables of 10 available.

It is also an excellent opportunity to promote the profession working together across the healthcare, industry and academic boundaries. For more information contact Catherine at CPW.





LHB Vacancies

Vacancies for Pharmacy Non-Officer Member on the Board(s) of the Vale of Glamorgan and Caerphilly Local Health Boards.

Vale of Glamorgan LHB Vacancy:

If you are interested in becoming a Non-Officer Member, please contact the LHB Chair, Dr Mike Robinson on 029 2035 0600. Application forms and role specifications are available from the Corporate Services Manager on 029 2035 0600 or by email to leanne.ilic-richards@valeofglamorganlhb.wales.nhs.uk The closing date for applications is 12th August 2006.

Caerphilly LHB Vacancy:

If you are interested in the vacancy for Caerphilly please contact the Chair, Bob Matched

FEEDBACK

Please do not hesitate to contact the Cardiff Office with your enquiries

Tel: 029 2044 2070

E-mail: info@cpwales.org.uk

INFORMATION

Wales' specific issues regularly updated on the CPW website. www.cpwales.org.uk
PSNC website: www.psnc.org.uk

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