



Exeter and East Devon Locality Pharmacy Forum 9th May 2011

40 community pharmacists gave up a lovely summer's evening to attend the LPC locality forum last night held at the Buckereil Lodge Hotel in Exeter. The main attractions were Darren Barnett, Controlled Drugs Pharmacist for NHS Devon, John Finn, Accountable Officer NHS Devon, and Sally Jarman, Non-Medical Prescriber/Clinical Lead in Drugs Devon Drug and Alcohol Service. The session was facilitated by Adrian Tebby, LPC member and community pharmacist.

Both John and Darren thanked the pharmacists for sending in details of significant events during the previous 12 months. Darren then highlighted some examples and the learning from these. Some of the examples gave food for thought, in particular the importance of ensuring SOP compliance, and feeding back to staff the importance of locums complying to SOPs. Errors in dispensing methadone sugar free instead of non sugar free formulations have occurred, one example of overcoming this is to highlight the formulation on the prescription. Darren also highlighted potential confusion over pack sizes of fentanyl patches (5) and BuTran (4) which had led to an incorrect quantity of Fentanyl patches being dispensed. Wrong doses being given to methadone patient emphasised the need to check the identity of patients. 60ml of methadone was dispensed to a 40ml patient because of similarities in appearance, and the name and address of the patient not being checked.

Darren will be producing some best practice and sharing learning through a newsletter to be circulated with the LPC golden pages.

John Finn then discussed some of the changes that had occurred with the separation of the commissioners and providers, through Transforming Community Services. John is now the Accountable Officer for GPs, pharmacies and Dentists in the NHS Devon area. An area of particular interest to John is the interaction between pharmacists and prescribers. He cited some examples of excessive nitrazepam and diazepam and codeine requests, and said how important it was for pharmacists to have the confidence to challenge prescribers in such situations.

Sally Jarman shared some statistics about illicit drug use and talked about the importance of treating. She also talked about the aims of the Devon Drug Service, and the differences between the different levels of service and how these related to the criminal justice system; and the importance of the supervised consumption service. Following a Q&A session, a local pharmacist shared an incident that had occurred recently, when a member of staff had incurred a needlestick injury because of a used needle breaking through a sharps box contained in a carrier bag of returned pharmaceutical waste. He wanted to emphasise the importance of taking extra care when handling returned sharps, ensuring an appropriate protocol is in place for the handling of needlestick injuries and seeking a medical intervention as soon as possible.

The evening ended at 9 pm, with Sue Taylor reminding the audience about the current local enhanced service sign up process for Smoking Cessation Support, and sexual health services.

The next forum will be held on the 8th September 2011.