

Community Pharmacy Newsletter

Issue 7

Summer 2011

Welcome to the summer issue of our newsletter!

This newsletter is aimed at anyone working within Community Pharmacy and provides a useful source of information about what is currently happening across NHS Devon. If there is anything you would like to see included, or if you have any feedback, please let me know - my contact details are at the foot of page 3.

Caroline Curtis
Deputy Primary Care Manager (Pharmacy)

NHS Devon Update

You may be aware that NHS Devon, Torbay Care Trust and NHS Plymouth have recently come together under new 'cluster' arrangements to take forward the Government's NHS reforms.

Ann James has recently been appointed Chief Executive of the cluster executive team. The team will be also be made up of a Director of Nursing; a Director of Finance; Director of Commissioning Development and a Medical Director.

The purpose of the clustering arrangement is to support the transition and at the same time identify and realise opportunities for more cohesive and efficient ways of working across boundaries. It is also aimed at providing stability during this turbulent time in the NHS.

As part of the move towards cluster arrangements, the Pharmacy teams in Devon, Torbay & Plymouth are working more closely together to identify areas of joint working to improve the way we currently work.

NHS Commissioning Board

The new national NHS Commissioning Board who will have overall responsibility for commissioning Pharmacy from April 2013 is currently being developed. The Department of Health recently published a document setting out initial proposals about how the NHS Commissioning Board will operate and how it will be organised.

The publication is intended to give further clarity about the suggested design of the Board, and to serve as the basis of further engagement on how the Board should develop.

We will keep you updated as changes progress.

Changes to National Pharmacy Contractual Framework 2011/12

On 16th June 2011 PSNC and NHS Employers published an update on the work being undertaken to implement the changes to the NHS Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF); namely the New Medicines Service (NMS); Targeted Medicine Use Reviews (MUR's) and Clinical Governance Changes. This update can be downloaded from: www.psn.org.uk/contract.

Recently, a group of Stakeholders met to suggest ideas to inform the changes. Some of the key issues to be addressed include:

- How to deliver consistent advice to patients
- How to identify patients eligible for the services
- How to encourage healthcare providers to refer patients
- The need to select additional groups for MUR's

Various tools are currently being developed to aid the implementation of both the NMS and targeted MUR's. This includes a self-assessment tool that pharmacists will use to assure themselves that they are able to demonstrate the required skills; an interview template for NMS that pharmacists will use when delivering the service. CPPE are also facilitating the development of learning materials for the implementation of the NMS.

We are also awaiting outcome measures for the targeted MUR's and a list of high-risk medicines should be finalised and published shortly.

We will be working with the LPC in planning for the local implementation of these changes and we will keep you informed as changes progress.

In the meantime, we encourage you to continue to review information with regard to contract changes and to start thinking about how to implement the new services within your Pharmacy.

There are a number of information sources to help keep you informed of the changes along the way including:

- PSNC website (www.psn.org.uk)
- NHS Employers website (www.nhsemployers.org)
- LPC & NHS Devon newsletters

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please get in touch!

Pharmacy Multi-Disciplinary Audit

It is anticipated that this year, we will run one multi-disciplinary audit for the NHS Devon cluster area incorporating Plymouth and Torbay areas.

We are currently in discussions with the LPC regarding the content of this year's audit and we will be sending you details of this shortly once this has been agreed.

Public Health Campaign - 'Know your Skin'

Devon has the fourth highest incidence rates of skin cancer in the country, and rates have quadrupled in the last 40 years, even though 80% of skin cancers could be prevented through simple lifestyle measures. As part of the Devon Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy 2011-2014, Devon pharmacies (joint with Torbay) have successfully completed a public health campaign on skin cancer awareness which ran throughout June. Evaluation is underway and will be shared in the next newsletter edition. Although the official campaign dates are over, the key messages are important all year round:

Key messages

Prevention:

- Avoid burning
- Seek shade during the hottest parts of the day
- Cover up with t-shirt, sunglasses and hat
- Sunscreen – at least SPF 15, apply regularly and generously
- Avoid sunbeds – use fake tan if you want to look tanned

Spotting the signs early:

Know your skin (i.e. risk factors – fair skin, lots of moles, freckles, history of sunburn, family/personal history of skin cancer)

Check your skin regularly

Any change in the size, shape or colour of a mole or normal patch of skin that occurs quickly over a period of weeks or months, should be taken seriously. If you notice a change, visit your GP without delay.

Safety Alerts

As we now hit the summer holiday period, we have begun to notice practice staff taking well earned periods of leave and an increase in out of office replies. Can we please ask that if your safety alerts point of contact within the practice is on leave, that their out of office reply also includes an alternative email contact along with the usual telephone number, contact details etc...

It's important for the alerts team to maintain appropriate links with all practices during the summer holiday period (and during periods of leave generally) and ensure that national and local safety notices continue to be received and actioned appropriately.

Improving medicines management in care homes

I hope many of you will have seen the recent Caring for Care Homes newsletter.

The Care Home Steering Group will distribute key information through this newsletter sharing good practice, learning and ideas to increase understanding and promote multidisciplinary working. These will continue to be sent electronically to all pharmacies. Please share these with your staff, and remember to pass onto any staff that work in MDS rooms. We hope to encourage everyone to work together to improve medicines management for this vulnerable group.

The Care Homes Steering Group has reviewed the monthly ordering process for medication and produced the following flow chart for pharmacy (appendix 1). Similar charts for care homes and GP practices are also being distributed. It is hoped that by clarifying the steps involved and reminding people of potential causes of error can reduce the risk.

It is recognised that different pharmacies may also use additional paperwork, for example duplicate copies of MAR charts, but the flow chart aims to show the key steps for all systems. The group is also working on improving communication of medication changes and how this will be communicated to community pharmacy. Information on this topic will be available in the next newsletter.

Patient Returned Waste

Just a reminder that all Community Pharmacies will be receiving a collection of their patient returned waste every 8 weeks for non-hazardous waste and 6 monthly for hazardous. Extra collections will only be made in exceptional circumstances.

Pharmacies are contractually responsible for ensuring they have adequate space for securely and safely storing all returned medicines in their premises.

If extra bins are needed they should be requested from devonpct@phs.co.uk

The Prescribing Team publish a wide range of articles on The Prescribing Post Live website:

<http://www.devonpctinfo.nhs.uk/PrescribingPost>

Local Enhanced Service Update

Chlamydia screening in Devon Downward Trend in Positivity!!

The National positivity rate for Chlamydia in the under 25 age group is now 5.2% and Devon is slightly higher than the National average at 6.3%. This reduction shows that the Chlamydia screening programme is having an effect on community infection rates. However, there is a need to keep up the momentum of this downward trend by continuing the opportunistic screening offer to a new generation of young people who are eligible for screening.

Therefore, the Chlamydia Screening EHC LES is being re-commissioned and offered to all pharmacies that issue EHC. Details of the Chlamydia Screening LES will follow shortly.

The grab bin LES is being re-commissioned in areas of high turnover or areas of need and we will be in touch with those pharmacies, meanwhile continue the service as usual.

Thank you all for the screening service provided to date. ***If you have any queries please contact us on 01392 284965 Tricia Baxendale Chlamydia Screening Coordinator***

Emergency Hormonal Contraception

Thank you for all those who returned their LES sign up agreements for 2011/12. You should now have since received a signed copy of the agreement for you to keep for your records. If you have not received a copy of this agreement, please get in touch.

Currently, we have 45 Pharmacies signed up to provide the service within the NHS Devon area (this does not include Torbay or Plymouth).

If you would like a copy of the LES or would like to know more details, please contact a member of the Pharmacy team.

LES PAYMENTS

PLEASE NOTE:

Claims for LES payments should be sent to the Pharmacy team within 3 months of the date of activity or claims may not be processed

Stop Smoking

Thank you to all who recently took time out to attend the Pharmacy Stop Smoking evening at Devon Hotel. We hope you found it useful and it was pleasing to see so many of you in attendance.

To aid pharmacies claim for the cost of NRT dispensed and Monitoring Form fees, revised paperwork has been developed that should minimise work and increase accuracy. This will replace the SS3 form. These will be sent to you as soon as they are finalised. If you have queries please email Lesley Thomas, Tobacco Control Manager at lesleythomas@nhs.net.

Some GP's are now signed up to a new prescribing LES which enables them to prescribe Champix and Zyban. Pharmacies signed up to the Stop Smoking LES may offer support to patients prescribed these drugs as well as NRT. If you wish to know if surgeries in your area are signed to this LES, contact Sophie Coombes on 01392 267845.

The Public Health team have produced a report which covers the year for 2010-11 (appendix 2). Future reports will be available quarterly for the year 2011-12.

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