



## Help your patients make the most of their new medicine – refer to the New Medicines Service



It is well documented that 30-50% of medicines are not taken as intended by the prescriber leading to inadequate management of long-term conditions and health costs to the patient. To help improve adherence the New Medicine Service (NMS) was launched on 1<sup>st</sup> October. This new service aims to support people who are prescribed new medicines for:

- Asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Type 2 diabetes
- Hypertension
- Anticoagulant/antiplatelet therapy

The service will supplement and reinforce the information provided by the prescriber and:

- ✓ Help patients make informed choices about their care
- ✓ Improve adherence leading to better health outcomes
- ✓ Reduce the number of queries for GP practices from patients about their new medicines
- ✓ Reduce medicines wastage
- ✓ Reduce hospital admissions due to adverse events
- ✓ Promote multidisciplinary working between pharmacies and practices

Practices should refer all patients who are prescribed new medicines in these categories to their pharmacy so they can benefit from a greater understanding of their medicines leading to improved adherence and health outcomes. Pharmacies will be arranging to meet their local practices to introduce the service and will be discussing ways of referring patients.

The NMS is split into 3 stages:

1. **Patient engagement:** Patients may be recruited to the service by prescriber referral or opportunistically.
2. **Intervention:** 7-14 days after the initial prescription the pharmacist will talk to the patient either face to face or over the telephone and discuss how they are getting on with their new medicine and offer information and support as appropriate.
3. **Follow up:** Pharmacist will follow up with the patient between days 14-21 to discuss how they are progressing and to give further advice.

It is expected that the majority of patient problems or issues will be sorted by the pharmacy. However, if the pharmacist identifies a problem requiring the prescriber to review a prescription at stages 2 or 3 they will complete and send the NMS feedback form to the GP.

### Targeted Medicines Use Reviews (MURs):

In addition to the NMS service, from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2011 pharmacies must ensure that at least 50% of the MURs they provide are targeted on three particular groups of patients:

- Patients who are taking high risk medicines (diuretics, NSAIDs, antiplatelets and anticoagulants)
- Patients who have recently been discharged from hospital with an amended medicines regime
- Patients with respiratory disease



These groups have been identified as they will benefit the most from this sort of medication review. GPs can continue to refer any patient to their pharmacist for an MUR and in particular patients with medicines in these groups.

## European Antibiotic Awareness Day 18th November 2011

European Antibiotic Awareness Day is a Europe-wide public health initiative aimed at encouraging responsible use of antibiotics. The initiative is supported by the Department of Health and its advisory committee on antimicrobial resistance and health care associated infections.

The Medicines Management Team are sending out posters and leaflets to GPs and community pharmacies to support the European Antibiotic Awareness Day and the promotion of prudent antibiotic use.



Plymouth Area Joint Formulary (PAJF) website: [www.plymouthformulary.nhs.uk](http://www.plymouthformulary.nhs.uk) To assist in promoting safe, cost-effective prescribing in both primary and secondary care within the Plymouth Health Community.

### Controlled drug prescription quantity reminder!



**Reminder!**

Total quantities should **NOT** be written in milligrams! This is a legal requirement.

#### Write

- |  |            |  |
|--|------------|--|
| Five (5) ampoules of diamorphine 10mg  | <b>NOT</b> | 5x10mg diamorphine ampoules, total quantity 50mg (fifty mg)    |
| 28 (twenty-eight) Zomorph 10mg tablets | <b>NOT</b> | Zomorph tablets 10mg, 280 (two-hundred and eighty) mg in total |



The **only** time it would be acceptable to use a total quantity in milligrams would be if you were to prescribe a powder- as there is no other way to quantify a powder!

If the medicine is in dosage units (tablets, capsules, ampoules, millilitres, etc) the Home Office advises the total quantity must be expressed as a number of dosage units (tabs, caps, patches etc). Liquids should be expressed as millilitres.

### How do I order Rocket® Indwelling Pleural Catheters (IPC)?



A number of patients are now being discharged requiring Rocket® pleural catheters. These catheters can be prescribed on FP10 prescriptions but they will not be held as stock and will need to be ordered by pharmacies, this will take at least two working days. We have been assured that patients should be discharged with sufficient supplies to last a minimum of two weeks; if practices are asked for urgent supplies, they should refer back to the discharging ward.

The IPC is a soft tube or drain that is inserted in the chest for the intermittent, long term drainage of symptomatic, recurrent pleural effusion. This tube enables the build up of fluid to be removed quickly from the chest by using vacuum bottles. Drainage times vary from daily to once or twice a week depending on the volume of fluid in the chest and the speed at which it re-accumulates.

There are two packs available and these can be prescribed on an FP10:

Rocket® IPC Dressing pack & bottle (5) - £125

Rocket® IPC Pre Evacuated Bottle (5) £87.50

Ordering options are:

- Call Rocket® Medical Customer Services (0191 419 6988) to set up an account. Orders placed before 2:30pm will be delivered in two working days (free of charge). However, if next day delivery is required, a charge will be incurred.
- Order via your usual wholesaler if available, through your 'specials' ordering system. Additional handling fees may be incurred.

Co-op and Lloyds Pharmacies already have an account with Rocket® Medical Customer Services and branches can order direct by telephone. Boots the Chemist Pharmacies can order using their usual in-house ordering systems.

If you should encounter any problems Rocket® Medical Customer Services are happy to discuss.

In all cases the estimated delivery date should be clarified and communicated to the patient/carer.



### MHRA Drug Safety Updates: October 2011



**Dronedarone (Multaq® ▼):** cardiovascular, hepatic and pulmonary adverse events – new restrictions and monitoring requirements. In light of safety concerns dronedarone should only be prescribed after other treatment options have been considered. Patients should have their treatment reviewed at the next routine appointment. Regular monitoring of cardiac, liver, and renal function during treatment is recommended. The PAJF status of dronedarone is “red” hospital only.

**Enzira®/CSL Biotherapies® and Viroflu®/Inflexal V® influenza vaccines:** Prescribers are reminded that Enzira® and CSL Biotherapies® generic influenza vaccines (both manufactured by CSL® and marketed by Pfizer®) should not be given to children younger than 5 years. These vaccines are not authorised for use in this age-group after the increased risk of febrile convulsions observed in Australia last year.

**Aqueous calamine cream:** If used on the skin before an X-ray examination, the zinc oxide in this product may mimic intramammary calcifications, which can be an important indicator of early breast cancer.

For further information: <http://www.mhra.gov.uk>



### This quarter's 'Top Prescribing Tips'



Tip no	Drug	Cheapest way to prescribe	Annual savings
1.	Fluoxetine 60mg	Prescribe as 3 x 20mg capsules	£559
2.	Plavix® 75mg	Prescribe generically as clopidogrel 75mg	£402
3.	<b>Prednisolone 5mg</b> Don't forget when generating acute prescriptions to prescribe the NON Enteric Coated tablet as they only cost £2.91 compared to £5.97 for the EC and £9.65 for soluble!		
4.	<b>ICAPS®</b> Please remember that the PAJF does <b>NOT</b> support the prescribing of ICAPS®. Prescribing this supplement costs approximately £136 per patient per annum.		
5.	<b>Glucosamine</b> Please remember that neither NICE nor the PAJF support the prescribing of glucosamine. Discontinuing prescribing saves approximately £240 per patient per annum.		



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