



Devon LPC Newsletter - Special Edition

23rd June 2010

There are two important matters we wish to bring to your attention in this special edition of the LPC newsletter.

Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments (PNA)

NHS Devon, NHS Plymouth and Torbay Care Trust recently circulated copies of the PSNC template questionnaire asking contractors to complete and return to the PCTs to inform the development of the PNAs. As there are a number of questionnaires not yet returned, I have been asked by the PCTs to remind contractors that the deadline has now passed! Any questionnaires that not returned by the 30th June will not be included in the PNA. This means that only the standard information held by the PCTs will be used.

(Note: Pharmacists working for the multiple pharmacy organisations do not need to complete the questionnaire).

The LPC is working with the three PCTs across Devon to ensure that there is a consistent approach to the PNAs in the county. The consultation is scheduled to start in early September; watch out for dates of local consultation events.

Prescription Processing

At the Exeter, East and Mid Devon Pharmacy Forum held last night at the Devon Hotel, George Wickham, an independent pharmacy contractor from Exeter, ran an impressive session on the prescription processing system at the PPD, and also provided some hints and tips to the audience about avoiding PPD pricing errors. Copies of George's presentations are on the LPC website along to a link to a video guide on prescription processing technology.

A link to the video guide may be found at

<http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/PrescriptionServices/2025.aspx>

George also reminded the audience that the 30th June is the deadline for requests for CIP re-pricing checks for the period up to 31 March 2009. Contractors who think that their payments up until 31 March 2009 have been significantly affected by the introduction of CIP processing only have until 30 June 2010 to ask in writing for a check of a month or months' prescriptions. After this time no further checking of prescriptions pre 31 March 2009 will be undertaken. Information on how to make a request for a recheck of prescriptions dispensed within the period up until 31 March 2009 is available on the NHS Prescription Services website via the following link:
<http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/PrescriptionServices/3057.aspx>.

NHS Prescription Services have not yet confirmed time scales for carrying out these checks. Results are not expected to be available before the June cut-off date for requests.

For further information or advice on any of the matters raised in this special edition please contact the LPC Secretariat on 01392 834022. Copies of presentations referred to above are on the LPC website www.devonlpc.org.

HINTS AND TIPS TO AVOID PPD PRICING ERRORS

Summary tips

Take care not to stamp over the age box on scripts
Double check all backs - care homes with young patients and dosette/MDS clients may not be age exempt
Keep Out of Pocket scripts separate to tally at month end
Check special suppliers monthly statements against scripts to ensure none are missing
Hospital and Dental scripts are always handwritten - check backs carefully
Consider keeping CD scripts separate - helps with CD register reconciliation, plus often handwritten and expensive too!

IF IN DOUBT KEEP IT OUT AND COLOUR IT PURPLE!

Expensive Items:

Check if your PMR can add expensive item flag to items > £100
Buy a purple highlighter and use it on all forms that you think need human input?
Print off the PSNC common item lists from the PSNC website and learn!
Consider logging expensive items and checking off on new FP34

True Specials

Always record supplier and invoice number on the prescription allowing you to trace it later if needed
Write the total price in full e.g. £580.00 not £580 as somebody got paid £5.80 doing this!
Watch out for unit prices e.g. 2x150ml at £130.00 per 150ml as you might only get paid for 150 ml
Handling charges are paid on the FP57 declaration so although written on the FP10 you need to keep a total tally for month end
Watch out for VAT - declare ex VAT prices only
The Out of Pocket expenses need to be annotated "XP" NOT "OOP" OR "p&p" AS ONLY Drug Tariff abbreviations are recognised by the rules engine (*Rules engine prices the contractor's prescriptions in accordance with the Drug Tariff rules*)
"DNG" Discount not deducted if applicable - rules engine does not recognise "ZD" (Zero discount).

Other specials

Extemporaneous preparations made in the pharmacy e.g. Betnovate in Aqueous cream
Gluten free breads from non main line wholesalers e.g. Lifestyle £15 Nan Bread!
Items where prescriber has not found the correct item and added extra details in the dosage line e.g. Inhalers' name or Mix Flavours or Preservative free

Broken Bulk Items

Item must be endorsed with pack size, date and dispenser's initials together with BB claim

NCSO Items

Listed monthly on PSNC website
Keep any items that you are having to source at additional costs separate in case NCSO listing is granted later in the month
Item must be endorsed with supplier, pack size and unit cost per pack and dated and signed by dispenser or will be paid at Drug Tariff price

To avoid overpayment - not dispensed items

Obliterate the item by writing over it "ND" so ICR cannot read it and pay you in error
Do not just print "ND" in endorsement column