



NHS HEALTHCHECKS: NORFOLK PHARMACIES CAN PLAY KEY ROLE

By the time you read this, NHS Norfolk should have already sent you the details of the pharmacy Local Enhanced Service for ***NHS HealthChecks***. Formerly known as Vascular Risk Assessment, this national programme offers preventative checks to all 40-74 year olds not already known to have an existing cardiovascular or related condition.

The advantages of pharmacy involvement are clear— greatly improved choice and access, especially for those who are not already “in the system”.

Pharmacy provision has been piloted in many other areas, but we are pleased to say that Norfolk is one of the first to offer this service to “any willing pharmacy provider”.

This is a big step for community pharmacy, and it’s vital that those that take part are prepared to really “go for it”.

We know there will be many questions over this service, which the LPC is happy to deal with (contact details below). Remember, the letter from the PCT merely asks for an expression of interest and commits you to nothing.

We are aware that the communication from the PCT was via email. We have included a copy of the letter and response form with this Newsletter. The Local Enhanced Service specification can be viewed/downloaded from our website:

www.pharmacy-anglia.org (then click on “Norfolk LPC”).

PLEASE RESPOND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE— please check with you Area Manager if you are in a multiple pharmacy.

PLEASE NOTE: THE NEW CONTACT NUMBER FOR NORFOLK LPC IS:

07789406632. Tony Dean will now be using this number for all LPC calls.

Email: norfolklpc@pharmacy-anglia.org

Also In This Issue:

Sexual Health— Another Training Date and FAQs, Methadone Prescribing, Levy Holiday, Registering As A Pharmacy Technician, PNA Update, Support for Carers

SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES– New Training Date: Tuesday 8th June 2010, at the Terrace Room, UEA Sports Park 7pm-9pm.

For those of you who missed one of the first 2 sessions, another is being run on 8th June.

If you'd like to attend, please contact Katy Blakey on 01603 257137 as soon as possible. More information about this service can be found on our website www.pharmacy-anglia.org

There is a £400 annual retainer for offering this service, plus fees for individual items of service within the LES.

SEXUAL HEALTH LES– SOME FAQs:

Following roll-out of the SEXUAL HEALTH LOCAL ENHANCED SERVICE there have been several queries, which we can now help clarify:

1) Where do I get the patient consent/result form for PREGNANCY TESTING?:

Unfortunately the manufacturers no longer produce the booklets. We have requested that the PCT produce their own (self-carbonated as there should be one copy for patient, one for pharmacy records and one (with consent) for the patient's GP).

IN THE MEANTIME A TEMPLATE FORM CAN BE DOWNLOADED FROM THE LPC WEBSITE, see "ENHANCED SERVICES" on the menu on the left, then select FAQs from the drop-down menu again on the left. You will need to use carbon paper to make 3 copies— one for the patient, one for your records and one for the GP (with consent).

2) What About the Issue of Urine Pots and Clinical Waste?

Urine pots can be obtained free from the Sexual Health Unit Tel. 01603 221830

We have taken advice from the PCT's infection control : "Having taken advice from the community infection control nurses. I see no reason why the present best practice cannot continue, put the remaining urine down the toilet and dispose of the bottle in the general waste container, one proviso is that all personnel details are removed from the container either by removal of the label or black marking the information out. The local authority waste collection are happy to have nappies and incontinence bags placed in the general waste If there is only a small number of containers each week and the chemist has a sharps bin in use that they place the plastic container in there so it goes for incineration. Either can be used."

3) On the Claim form there is nowhere to indicate which treatment was given?

This will be corrected in further reprints. For now, please write on the form if a treatment other than Azithromycin was supplied.

BRANDED PRESCRIBING OF METHADONE

Norfolk LPC was not consulted on the proposal to switch prescribing of methadone to the Physeptone brand. Once we were made aware of this we reacted quickly to strongly oppose the switch. This is due to both professional concerns about relying on the robustness of the Physeptone supply chain (we can foresee major problems when it goes out of stock) and serious concerns that the loss of purchase profit may render the supervised consumption service non-viable.

Following our initial objections, we are pleased to say that the proposal has been suspended. We will be having further discussions with The DAT/PCT in due course, but Norfolk LPC is determined to remain strong in our opposition to this.

We will communicate with you directly on this by a specific mail-shot when we have more information.

LPC LEVY HOLIDAY FOR ALL CONTRACTORS

The progress on new enhanced services, and the strong action mentioned above are examples of the benefits to having a strong Local Pharmaceutical Committee.

Norfolk LPC is also determined to ensure that we give maximum value to our contractors in return for the small levy we take from each.

As a result, we regularly review our financial reserves to ensure we are not holding onto more contractor money that we absolutely require to secure our activities.

As a result, we are pleased to announce that we have instructed the PPA not to collect a LPC Levy in June.

We will continue to monitor our funding, and fully intend to repeat this levy holiday whenever possible.

REGISTERING AS A "PHARMACY TECHNICIAN"- THE FACTS

Registration for all Pharmacy Technicians will become compulsory on 1st July 2011. Between now and then there is a transitional "grandparenting" period during which all current technicians can apply for registration.

TO HELP YOU WITH THIS REQUIREMENT WE HAVE POSTED A FACTSHEET ON THE LPC WEBSITE. THIS INCLUDES GOOD INFORMATION AND FAQs.

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REMEMBER THE LPC WEBSITE : Our website provides information for Contractors and links to current news. You do not need a password. Go to www.pharmacy-anglia.org and select "Norfolk LPC", or access via the PSNC website: www.psn.org.uk

PHARMACEUTICAL NEEDS ANALYSIS

By now you should have received your questionnaire for the Pharmaceutical Needs Analysis (PNA) (Please note that for most of the multiple pharmacies these have not been sent to individual branches but to your Area Manager or other appropriate person).

By answering these questions you will help the PCT identify the current provision of services across the area. It is important that these are completed promptly and accurately to ensure that this exercise captures as much information as possible about the great work our pharmacies do.

The next step will be to look at current provision and map it, to see if there are any gaps in current provision. This does not necessarily mean that all pharmacies have to offer all services, but if there is little or no provision in an area this may be considered a gap.

Should this happen it is important that existing contractors acknowledge and react to fill such a gap in provision.

Failure to do so may leave the door open to new applications for new pharmacy contracts under the PNA-based system.

Norfolk LPC is represented on the PCT working group on PNA development. ALL contractors will be consulted directly on the draft PNA when it is ready— this is planned for September/October 2010.

THIS WILL BE A VITAL DOCUMENT WHICH YOU SHOULD CONSIDER CAREFULLY AND TAKE THE TIME TO RESPOND TO.

We will keep you posted.

OTC TAMSULOSIN

If you are selling this new OTC treatment you will be aware of the RPSGB Guidance on its sale.

Clearly, if treatment is to continue beyond 6 weeks there is a requirement that the patient is advised to see their GP for assessment of their symptoms and confirmation that OTC treatment can continue.

Since this clearly has an impact on the GPs, we would advise that it would be good for Pharmacist/GP relationships if you were to contact your local practice(s) to let them know what is happening and to discuss the referral process.

SUPPORT FOR CARERS

We all know that families, friends and neighbours often carry a great burden in helping to care for the most vulnerable in our society. Often this comes at significant personal cost, and not all are aware of the help and support they themselves can get. A local initiative called “Who Cares” is looking to help with this issue. The Crossroads Carers’ Helpline holds supplies of local leaflets, including the “Who Cares” Directory. **Tel. 0808 808 9867.**

We have added a support document on this topic to our website. This outlines the main issues and lists some useful contacts and websites.