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Carers Week 9 – 13 June 2014

The Board recognises the unique role community pharmacies provide to identify and support carers looking after family and friends within a locality. Pharmacies operate within the heart of a community with staff very likely to be more aware of patients and their carers' individual circumstances.

This local awareness provides a valuable opportunity for community pharmacies to direct appropriate customers to the one of the various carers' centres located across Glasgow and Clyde to access more specialist advice and information.

In anticipation of your support, pharmacies will shortly receive promotional material for use during Carers Week along with details of the location of Carers' Centres across GGC for ongoing use throughout the year. Further details will be available from Pharmacy Champions in due course and the initiative has the support of the Area Pharmacy Contractor's Committee.

Guidelines

The following clinical governance related guidance was published in March 2014. Access details are provided should you have an interest in any of these subject areas

SIGN 138 – Dental Interventions to prevent caries in Children <http://www.sign.ac.uk/pdf/SIGN138.pdf>

Contraceptive services with a focus on young people up to the age of 25 <http://guidance.nice.org.uk/PH51>

Community Pharmacist Asthma LES 2014-2015

We previously advised participating community pharmacists to attend one of the training sessions or complete the NES Asthma training module. We have now become aware that NES have removed this training module from their website. NES intend to video one of the NHS GGC Asthma LES Training Sessions and host this on their website. Pharmacists who are unable to attend one of the local events should undertake this online training before starting the NHS GGC Asthma LES.

Details on how to access this resource will be circulated as soon as they are available.

Controlled Drugs Accountable Officer (CDAO)

Professor Norman Lannigan has taken up position as CDAO for NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde following the retirement of Dr Kate McKean. Please continue to report any incidents or concerns relating to CD use to cdgovernance@ggc.scot.nhs.uk.

For any CD related queries, contact the Controlled Drugs Governance Team on 0141 201 5348.

Rationalisation of Thickening Agents

Following a review of the range of products previously in use, the Board has opted for Nutilis Clear as a preferred choice of thickening agent in drinks and soups etc. Patients should be prescribed Nutilis Clear from 1 May 2014.

Mandatory Smoking Cessation Training

NES Pharmacy has arranged a series of training events in preparation for the introduction on the new Varenicline PGD Smoking Cessation service this summer. The training is mandatory for all pharmacists planning to deliver the new Varenicline PGD and optional for support staff. A direct learning event is planned for 19.00-21.00 on Tuesday 27 May in the Glynhill Hotel, Renfrew with an elearning resource available for those unable to attend on the 27th. In addition, a national webinar is planned for 3 June and will be available to view as a webcast from 4 June at <http://www.neswebinars.co.uk/login.aspx> All participants in the training will be required to successfully complete on line MCQ's – MCQ1 for all to complete and MCQ2 for pharmacists. Please access the NES Portal (<http://www.portal.scot.nhs.uk>) for more information on how to register for any of the training sessions.

European Economic Area (EEA) prescriptions

Changes to The Human Medicines (Amendment) Regulations 2014 came into force on 31 March and allow for prescriptions issued by a doctor, dentist, prescribing pharmacist or prescribing nurse in an EEA country or Switzerland to be dispensed in the UK. Emergency supplies for patients of these healthcare professionals are also permitted.

It should be noted that CD's Schedules 1, 2, and 3 cannot be prescribed or supplied nor can products without a valid UK marketing authorisation. The prescription must contain patient details, including date of birth; full details of the prescriber including contact details and authority to prescribe; details of prescribed medicines including name, form, quantity, strength and dose; prescriber's signature and date of issue.

Authority to prescribe can be verified through the General Medical Council, General Dental Council, General Pharmaceutical Council and the Nurse & Midwifery Council who have access to up-to-date contact details for EEA competent authorities in most countries where registers are maintained.

Domperidone – risk of cardiac side Effects

Following a Europe-wide review, the MHRA has updated its guidance on the use of Domperidone. With immediate effect use is restricted to the relief of symptoms of nausea and vomiting and the dosage and duration of treatment has been reduced.

The drug is now contraindicated in patients with an underlying cardiac condition and GPs will review treatment options at their next routine appointment. Community pharmacists handling OTC sales are asked to exclude supply to people where the drug is contraindicated, advise those eligible to take only for nausea and vomiting and to take the lowest dose for the shortest possible time up to a maximum daily dose of 3 tablets up to a maximum period of 48 hours.

Take a fresh look at what medicines you take – 'Let's Talk Medicine'

Posters featuring this major campaign will have been installed in all community pharmacies supporting the PHS programme. These pharmacy panels represent the main feature of the campaign which will also be supported by radio and press adverts.

A dedicated website www.letstalkmedicine.com is also available. The campaign aims to raise awareness amongst patients of the benefits of discussing their medicines with GPs and pharmacists.

More information is contained in the previously circulated Campaign Briefing Pack and also by contacting the local lead for the initiative Mairi-Anne McLean at mairi-anne.mclean@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

MHRA Drug Safety Update – Dispensing Errors

A recent issue of the above update bulletin highlighted the need for pharmacists and dispensers to be extra vigilant when dispensing products of similarly sounding names. The MHRA has become aware of recent medication errors resulting from patients supplied with the wrong medicine due to confusion over names. Some of these errors could result in life-threatening conditions and fatalities have occurred as a result. Pharmacists and dispensers are asked to take care that effective checking procedures are in place to reduce the risk of drug-name confusions. Commonly confused names include the following drugs –

Prednisolone and propanolol
Mercaptamine and mercaptopurine
Sulfadiazine and sulfasalazine
Risperidone and ropinirole
Zuclopenthixol decanoate and zuclopenthixol acetate
Bumetanide and buspirone

Similar errors can arise from confusion over different strengths of the same preparation, particularly when packaging used across the range of strengths is very alike. Updated packaging of some morphine sulphate products to better highlight the strength on the pack is being phased in from this April. More information on this article can be downloaded from the MHRA website at <http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Safetyinformation/DrugSafetyUpdate/index.htm> April 2014, Volume 7 Issue 9

Commonwealth Games

The following link provides access to current awareness of the traffic restrictions likely to affect travel across the city in July and August in preparation for and during the Commonwealth Games. This information will be routinely updated to reflect progress and should be viewed on a regular basis to ensure you are familiar with arrangements likely to affect your location. Community pharmacies should update Business Continuity Plans to reflect the situation likely to be in place during the Games. Further details will be issued from PPSU shortly following conclusion of discussions with pharmaceutical wholesalers and community pharmacy and GP representatives to determine the likely impact the Games may have on access to healthcare services

Information has been published on road closures, parking and waiting restrictions for the Commonwealth Games venues at <http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=11703>. North Lanarkshire council has information relating to triathlon at Strathclyde Park and the cycling time trial <http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=28570>.

Please note that although the Games run from 23rd July – 4th August, some roads are affected from 7th July until 6th August and many of the restrictions operate 24 hours per day.