

Pharmacy News

MHRA Yellow Card Scheme

The Yellow Card Scheme is vital in helping the MHRA monitor the safety of all healthcare products in the UK to ensure they are acceptably safe for patients and those that use them.

Pharmacists are reminded of the importance of submitting a Yellow Card.

Reports can be made for:

- Suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) to all medicines including:
- Vaccines
- Blood factors and immunoglobulins
- Herbal medicines
- Homeopathic remedies
- All medical devices available on the UK market
- Defective medicines (those that are not of an acceptable quality)
- Fake or counterfeit medicines or medical devices
- Nicotine-containing electronic cigarettes and refill containers (e-liquids)

More information is available on <https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/>

Signposting Out of Stock to FVRH

FVRH have raised the issue of community pharmacy signposting patients to acute for fulfilment of GP10 prescriptions that are out of stock. Normal process would be to borrow stock from another pharmacy or direct the patient to a pharmacy with stock. FVRH request that in the unusual event of signposting to FVRH pharmacists find out if the hospital actually have the medication in stock, and that the GP10 prescription is written appropriately before sending patients to the hospital. This avenue should only be pursued if patients are in urgent need of supply, this is additionally pertinent at weekends when acute pharmacy work with skeleton staff.

Pharmacy First and Extension Service

Contractors are reminded that as part of the Pharmacy First service a signed copy of the notification of consultation form (copy of which is sent to the GP if a supply is made) for each pharmacy first consultation must be kept within the pharmacy regardless of whether the patient receives treatment, advice or is referred. These forms must be available should an audit of the service be completed as part of payment verification.

Methotrexate & Folic Acid

Two Forth Valley patients have been admitted to secondary care with pancytopenia while on methotrexate, one of the patients unfortunately died. While a lot of pharmacy focus falls on methotrexate prescribing and associated monitoring, community pharmacy services would ask all community pharmacists to consider routinely checking that scripts for folic acid are being appropriately issued and that patients are compliant with this medication.

ORT Package of Care

Please be aware that in the future we aim to move towards a direct payment for providing a package of care for ORT. Recent data has shown that a high percentage of prescriptions submitted to PSD for ORT had the CHI number obscured by the pharmacy stamp in the top right hand corner which would result in no payment for the package of care. Contractors are asked to ensure the pharmacy stamp does not obscure CHI numbers on prescriptions.

Volume 7, No 2

April 2018

Please Circulate to All Staff

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PGD Individual Authorisation Submissions

Pharmacists are asked to carefully review PGD individual authorisation submissions before faxing to community pharmacy development team (CPDT). **Between forty to sixty percent of authorisations that are received are incorrectly completed and / or are not the current version**, particularly with the Unscheduled Care PGD. Incorrectly completed or out-dated versions of PGD authorisations cannot be documented. Where a contractor code or email is given every effort is made by CPDT to request resubmission however there is no resource to enable us to investigate and chase up incorrectly submitted PGD authorisations where no obvious contact is documented.

Please ensure that you have the correct version of the PGD that you are submitting.

Please ensure that you have completed all the information that is requested, signature and date are frequently not completed particularly on the Unscheduled Care PGD.

Every effort is made to ensure that the most recent version of PGDs are uploaded to the [Forth Valley community pharmacy website](#). Forth Valley CPDT email contractors with all new PGD releases when they become available, these are simultaneously uploaded to the website. Contractors should ensure that they have the most up to date versions held within stores.

Unscheduled Care PGD

Unscheduled care is a nationally contracted service all seventy six contractors in Forth Valley would be expected to have a PGD submission against their contract code which allows the Board to have confidence that service is being delivered. An updated version of the Unscheduled Care PGD is released every six months and so all pharmacists should ensure they complete the updated authorisations and submissions on a biannual basis.

Smoking Cessation

The Scottish Government released an updated service specification for this service in August 2017 outlining varenicline as a first line option for patients wishing to attempt to give up smoking. Forth Valley has recently updated its varenicline PGD to reflect the government recommendations. Smoking cessation is a nationally negotiated service and as such all seventy six contractors would be expected to be able to provide varenicline as part of their smoking cessation options. CPDT have recently distributed the updated PGD to all pharmacy contractors and have additionally provided a protected learning time event for the provision of varenicline.

Pharmacy First

All seventy six community pharmacy contractors have contracted to provide the Pharmacy First service. PGDs for Uncomplicated UTI (trimethoprim) and Impetigo (fusidic acid) have recently been reviewed and we are now on Version 2. CPDT will be monitoring submission and each contractor will be expected to have a PGD submission against their contractor code – please ensure you have submitted these PGDs. **The Pharmacy First service includes provision of emergency medication for exacerbation of COPD.** Please ensure that all pharmacists covering the pharmacy first service have completed the mandatory training and **submitted the three PGD's associated with this service.** Mandatory training expectations are listed in the PGD and in the service specification both of which can be found on the Forth Valley community pharmacy website. The CPDT would expect all seventy six pharmacies to be signed up to the appropriate PGDs required to provide the complete service.

Mandatory training required for the three PGDs which cover exacerbation of COPD are as follows:

Amoxicillin – up to date knowledge in therapeutic area – completion of NES pharmacy first module which includes antimicrobial stewardship. Attendance at local training events on COPD.

Completion of NES COPD interactive resource – via NES Learn (links below)

Doxycycline - Attendance at local training events on COPD.

Completion of NES COPD interactive resource – via NES Learn (links below)

Prednisolone: Attendance at local training events on COPD.

Completion of NES COPD interactive resource – via NES Learn (links below)

<https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/455/pharmacy/cpd-resources/chronic-obstructive-pulmonary-disease-virtual-patient-scenario>

<https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/457/pharmacy/cpd-resources/respiratory-disease-copd>

It is the intention of the CPDT to monitor the submission of PGDs against each contractor code in order to reassure the Health Board that contractors are providing in full all the services to which they have contracted. Over the coming months Forth Valley CPDT will be producing a PGD checklist and Guidance Handbook to each contractor to act as an aide memoir to prompt and assist pharmacists to ensure they are legally covered to provide services they may be undertaking within their pharmacy.

Injection Equipment Provision—Participating Pharmacies

All community pharmacies providing the Injection Equipment Provision service would be expected to attend one Health Board identified training event in each calendar year. The Blood Borne Virus Managed Clinical Network training event detailed above has been identified as an appropriate training event for this service provider. A further Blood Borne Virus Conference is planned for October / November 2018 and each Forth Valley Injection Equipment Provision service provider would be expected to attend one or other of these events to ensure up to date professional knowledge.

Dates for Diary—Future Training Events

Hosted By	Name of Event	Date	Venue	Time	PLT	For Information or to Register:
Alcohol & Drug Partnership	Naloxone Training	Tuesday 17th April 2018	Learning Centre Room 1 FVRH	18:15 - 21:15	NO	FV-UHB.FVADP@nhs.net
NES	Emergency Contraception	Tuesday 24th April 2018	The Grange Manor	7-9pm	NO	https://portal.scot.nhs.uk
Blood Borne Virus Managed Clinical Network	IEP Annual Training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bacterial infection & Drug Use ● Blood Borne Virus update ● Tooting v shooting (incl. other routes and methods of drug use) 	Tuesday 8th May 2018	Stirling Community Hospital Education & Conference Centre Lecture Theatre	Day Event	YES	At this point this is a date for diary notification—please look for more information coming from Community Pharmacy Support
Community Pharmacy Development	Delivering Community Pharmacy Services	Wednesday 9th May 2018	The Grange Manor	7-9pm	NO	FV-UHB.communitypharmacysupport@nhs.net
Community Pharmacy Development	Delivering Community Pharmacy Services	Thursday 17th May 2018	The Grange Manor	7-9pm	NO	FV-UHB.communitypharmacysupport@nhs.net

Community Pharmacy Services

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For Specials authorisation:

Telephone: 01324 673605

Primary Care Prescribing Advice:

Telephone: 01324 673611 FV-UHB.prescribingsupport@nhs.net

Advice Related to Controlled Drugs:

Kirsty Peacock, Inspection Officer for Controlled Drugs, 01324-566743