

Pharmacy News

Prescribing of low-strength buprenorphine patches as Butec®

NHS Forth Valley are proposing to prescribe low strength buprenorphine patches as the Butec® brand. This will ensure that patients always receive the same branded product each time thus reducing the risk of being supplied an alternative brand in error. It also ensures that prescribing will comply with the prescribing recommendation that opioid patches are prescribed by brand name.

Butec® patches are available in the following strengths - 5mcg/hr, 10mcg/hr, 15mcg/hr and 20mcg/hr - and are applied ONCE a week.

Community pharmacies may wish to start running down stocks of other brands of buprenorphine patches.

Risk of severe and fatal burns with paraffin-containing and paraffin-free emollients

In December 2018 warnings about the risk of severe and fatal burns were extended to **ALL** paraffin-based emollients regardless of paraffin concentration. Data also suggests that there is a risk for paraffin-free emollients. Emollients are an important and effective treatment for chronic dry skin conditions and people should continue to use these products. However, community pharmacies are asked to advise all patients when selling or dispensing emollients that:

****Patients using emollients should NOT smoke or go near naked flames**

****Residue from emollients can build-up on bedding, clothing and bandages/dressings- if these fabrics have been in contact with emollients or emollient-treated skin they can rapidly ignite**

****Washing clothing and fabric at a high temperature may reduce emollient build-up but not totally remove it**

Warnings, including an alert symbol, are being added to the packaging of emollients to provide a visual reminder to patients and those caring for them about the fire hazard. Any fire incidents with emollients or other skin care products should be reported by submitting a Yellow Card.

Further information can be accessed via the MHRA drug safety update bulletin, available from: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/765896/PDF-Dec-2018.pdf

Medicines Shortages in Community Pharmacy

All community pharmacies should now have received a laminated copy of the medicines shortages in community pharmacy flowchart. Please can pharmacies ensure that all staff, including locums, are familiar with the process that should be followed when a medicine is unobtainable before the prescriber is contacted.

In particular, pharmacies are asked to familiarise themselves with the endorsements and substitutions they can make without the need for a new prescription (as per the PSD Endorsing Guide). High volume or long-term out of stock issues should be flagged to FV PST to allow local advice to be developed. Email prescribing support team on FV-UHB.prescribingsupport@nhs.net.

The prescribing support team issue advice by e-mail to your pharmacy shared mailbox, so pharmacies are reminded to ensure these are checked daily for the most up-to-date information relating to medicine shortages.

Care At Home

NHS Forth Valley now have a Care at Home Pharmacy Technician (Helen Davie) working within the Falkirk Area. Helen is currently reviewing patients who receive a package of care provided by Falkirk Council and is working along side Care at Home staff to support management of medicines within patients homes. From time to time Helen may be contacting community pharmacies regarding patients medication.

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Please Circulate to All Staff

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Diary Dates — Future Training Events

Hosted By	Name of Event	Date	Venue	Time	PLT	For Information or to Register:
RPS	Pharmacy Sector Integration — Making it happen	Wednesday 20th February 2019	The Grange Manor	7-9pm	NO	rphar.ms/ForthValley20Feb
NES	Improving the identification and management of sepsis	Thursday 28th February 2019	The Grange Manor	7-9pm	NO	https://portal.scot.nhs.uk
Jean Logan Alison Morrison	Clozapine Peer Review	13th March	FVRH Learning Centre Room 1	6:30pm-8:00 pm	NO	alison.morrison3@nhs.net
NES	Supporting people with trauma	Wednesday 20th March 2019	The Grange Manor	7-9pm	NO	https://portal.scot.nhs.uk
**NHS Forth Valley Palliative Care Pharmacists	Palliative Care Study Date	Thursday 16th May	Strathcarron	10:00am to 16:00pm	NO	FV-UHB.communitypharmacysupport@nhs.net
NES	NSAIDs Safer Care Bundle	Thursday 23rd May 2019	The Grange Manor	7-9pm	NO	https://portal.scot.nhs.uk

****Please not all Palliative Care Pharmacies would be expected to attend the training on Thursday 16th May as per mandatory training set out in the Palliative Care Service Specification****

Discontinued FAX

Given NHS England's move to phase out fax machines by 2020 and difficulties that have been encountered with available phone ports within the Pharmacy Department, the Community Pharmacy Development Team have taken the decision **discontinue use of fax machines within the pharmacy department.**

Alternative methods of submitting PGD authorisations include:

Scan and email to FV-UHB.communitypharmacysupport@nhs.net

Photograph signed PGD with smart phone and email to FV-UHB.communitypharmacysupport@nhs.net

Sign and post to: - Community Pharmacy Development Team, Pharmacy Department, Forth Valley Royal Hospital, Stirling Road, Larbert., FK5 4WR

We continue to get a high percentage of PGDs submitted that we are unable to document as they are incomplete or are not the current version. Due to resource required we are NOT alerting those who have submitted incomplete PGDs. Incomplete forms mean use of the PGD is illegal, pharmacists should ensure they complete the form correctly.

Please use the PGD checklist on the Forth Valley website to ensure you have signed the correct version of the PGD and read the online guide to ensure you have completed your authorisation in full.

Community Pharmacy Services

Pharmacy Department, Forth Valley Royal Hospital, Larbert, FK5 4WR
FV-UHB.communitypharmacysupport@nhs.net

Community Pharmacy Development Pharmacist:

Kirstin Cassells,
Telephone: 01324 567935

Community Pharmacy IM&T Facilitator:

Suzane MacCrimmon, Suzanne.maccrimmon@nhs.net
Telephone: 07920 294 443

For Specials authorisation:

Telephone: 01324 567937

Primary Care Prescribing Advice:

Telephone: FV-UHB.prescribingsupport@nhs.net

Advice Related to Controlled Drugs:

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