

Pharmacy News

Mental Health Acute Assessment and Treatment Service (MHAATS)

The Mental Health Acute Assessment and Treatment service or **MHAATS** is a service based in the mental health unit in Forth Valley Royal Hospital. This service encompasses both intensive home treatment as a direct alternative to hospital admission (formerly IHTT) and emergency mental health assessments from various sources including GPs, Emergency Department and Community Mental Health teams. The team comprises mental health nurses and psychiatrists together with psychology, pharmacy and social care support.

The nursing team includes nurse independent prescribers (NIP) and trainee advanced nurse practitioners (ANP), the NIP will be able to prescribe medication as part of an agreed treatment plan.

MHAATS manages the care of individuals between the ages of 18-65 and are responsible for all mental health assessments from all specialities out of hours. MHAATS also accepts referrals from police. As MHAATS are seeing patients in an emergency setting there will be occasions where treatment is required quickly when the GP practice is closed.

For this reason MHAATS now have their own HBP blue prescription pads which can be utilised for the patient to take to their community pharmacy to facilitate treatment. Should the community pharmacy wish to query any prescription then the address and contact number for the service is included on the prescription pad.

Compliance aids and hospital admissions

Recently a community pharmacy was telephoned by a clinical pharmacy technician to inform them that a patient had been admitted to hospital. One week later, whilst the patient was still in hospital and their medication had changed, the community pharmacy handed the patient's compliance aid containing their old medicines to a family member.

We would like to remind community pharmacies not to hand out or deliver any compliance aids unless you have been informed that the patient has been discharged from hospital and advised about any medication changes. If you are in doubt, you can contact the dispensary at Forth Valley Royal Hospital on 01324 566701/566700.

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Please circulate to all staff

Inside this issue:

Mental Health Acute Assessment and Treatment Service	1
Compliance aids and hospital admissions	1
Referrals to other healthcare professionals using SBAR forms	2
Opiate Substitution Therapy and Easter Pharmacy Closures	2
Diary Dates– Future Training Events	3
VSL#3	3
Circular PCA(P) 2019(4)	3
Useful Contact Information	3

Please check your generic mailbox daily for the most up-to-date communication

Referrals to other healthcare professionals using SBAR forms

Thank you to all community pharmacies who are using SBAR referral forms to refer patients to GP surgeries and other healthcare professionals. Feedback from GP surgeries regarding the use of SBAR forms has been mainly positive, although we have been notified that some patients are being referred from community pharmacies for an appointment within 24 hours when this is not necessarily required. This puts pressure on the already limited capacity for emergency appointments in GP surgeries. To ensure consistency of referrals across Forth Valley we have provided some scenarios with appropriate referral timescales below.

SCENARIO

A patient has red and spotty tonsils, swollen glands in their neck, discomfort when swallowing and a high temperature.

A patient complains of recurring heartburn. They have tried taking Gaviscon[®] after meals and before bedtime but their symptoms haven't improved. They have no red flag/alarm symptoms.

A patient has their blood pressure measured by the community pharmacy- the reading is found to be elevated and is 168/97mmHg.

A mother brings her child to the pharmacy with red, dry, inflamed, and cracked skin that has been present for three days.

APPROPRIATE REFERRAL TIMESCALE

These are symptoms of a bacterial throat infection. The patient should be referred for an **appointment within 24 hours**.

This could indicate underlying gastro-oesophageal reflux disease and may need treatment with prescription medicines. The patient should be referred for a **routine appointment**.

The patient should be given advice about non-pharmacological ways of lowering blood pressure and asked to make a **routine appointment** with their doctor.

As the skin is cracked this falls outwith the hydrocortisone PGD criteria. The mother should be given advice about applying emollients and asked to make a **routine appointment** with their doctor if symptoms do not improve following emollient use. Ensure parent is aware of what would suggest signs of infection as this would require an **appointment within 24 hours** if signs or infection develop.

Opiate Substitution Therapy and Easter Pharmacy Closures

Community pharmacies may be closed for the public holidays on Friday 19th and Monday 22nd April 2019. We would encourage pharmacies to ensure that they inform their opiate substitution therapy patients about their Easter opening hours and check in advance that all patients have valid prescriptions to cover the Easter public holiday period. Patients should also be counselled about how to safely store any additional take-home doses that will be dispensed.

There is evidence that shows that public holidays are associated with an increased risk of drug-related deaths. This would be a good opportunity for community pharmacies to check if opiate substitution therapy patients have a supply of naloxone, and that it is still within its expiry date. Replacement naloxone injections can be provided by pharmacists who have been trained to supply take home naloxone under the PGD. As always, please remember to log any naloxone supplies on NEO as outlined by the service specification and record any interventions you make in the patient's care plan.

Diary Dates—Future Training Events

Hosted by	Name of event	Date	Venue	Time	PLT	For information or to register:
NHS Forth Valley Palliative Care Pharmacists*	Palliative Care Study Date	Thurs 23rd May	Strathcarron Hospice	10am-4pm	NO	FV-UHB.communitypharmacy.support@nhs.net
NES	NSAIDs safer care bundle	Thurs 23rd May	The Grange Manor	7-9pm	NO	https://portal.scot.nhs.uk

***Please note: 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**

VSL#3 Probiotic Food Supplement

The Prescribing Support Team would like to advise community pharmacies that the VSL#3 probiotic food supplement has been removed from the NHS Scotland ACBS list and is therefore no longer prescribable on the NHS. Patients who were benefitting from treatment with VSL#3 should be advised that they can purchase the supplement if they wish to keep taking it.

Scottish Government Circular PCA(P)2019(4)

Community pharmacies are reminded that as outlined in Scottish Government Circular PCA(P) 2018(8), issued in June 2018, they are paid £220 per month for carrying out Quality Improvement work within their community pharmacy teams. To achieve this payment in 2019 in accordance with the circular:

- Pharmacy teams should continue to provide the NSAID communication bundle, recording their interventions, giving patients counselling and implementing their pharmacy-specific action plans.
- All community pharmacists are asked to make an effort to attend the NES training event on NSAID Safer Care bundle which is being held on 23rd May at the Grange Manor Hotel. This will introduce the NSAID Clinical Care bundle which will complement the existing communication bundle. Bookings can be made through the [NES Portal](#). For those pharmacists that are unable to attend, NES have uploaded a webinar onto [TURAS Learn](#) which pharmacists must work through.
- Pharmacy teams should be using and implementing the Root Cause Analysis (RCA) pack (available at www.cps.scot/RCA) to continually improve responses to near misses, dispensing incidents, feedback including complaints and as identified in their Safety Climate Survey action plan to support continuous improvement within the pharmacy.

Useful Contact Details

Community Pharmacy Services:	Pharmacy Department, Forth Valley Royal Hospital, Larbert, FK5 4WR E-mail: FV-UHB.communitypharmacy.support@nhs.net
Community Pharmacy Development Pharmacist:	Kirstin Cassells Kirstin.cassells@nhs.net , Telephone: 01324 567935
IM&T Facilitator:	Suzanne MacCrimmon suzanne.maccrimmon@nhs.net , Telephone: 07920 294443
For specials authorisation:	Telephone: 01324 567937
For primary care prescribing advice:	E-mail: FV-UHB.prescribingsupport@nhs.net
Advice relating to Controlled Drugs:	Kirsty Peacock (Inspection officer for Controlled Drugs) Telephone: 01324 566743