

Pharmacy News

Medicines Shortage Flow Chart

A reminder that in the case of medicines being out of stock or manufacturer cannot supply pharmacies should follow the NHS Forth Valley [flow chart](#) available on the FV Community Pharmacy Website. The flow chart details different routes that can be followed in the event pharmacies cannot obtain the stock required. A reminder that suitable substitutions can be made in respect to the original prescription as long as correct endorsements are made or alternatively in consultation with the GP practice the unscheduled care PDG can be utilised to make alternative supplies.

Lower Limb Joint Pain

The 'Best in Class' project has been running in the Clackmannanshire area for the last year offering advice to patients with lower limb joint pain. First contact Physiotherapists have been working in primary care to see these patients, rather than the GPs, saving GP time and also reducing referral rates to Orthopaedics and the general Physiotherapy service. One of the key strands of the project has been to introduce a Lower limb exercise class to the region through Active Clacks. The class focuses on building lower limb strength to help the legs recover. There is now a Forth valley wide scale up underway with classes also available in Grangemouth Sports Complex and coming to Stirling soon.

More details available on [NHS Forth Valleys Twitter](#) or contact peter.reid5@nhs.net

Substance Misuse

The Community Pharmacy Support team have issued their first substance misuse newsletter, via the generic email, on 25th July. This newsletter will be distributed every two months. The latest issue covers Naloxone, missed OST doses and NEO/Direct entry. We would refer pharmacies to this newsletter.

Identifying Lyme Disease

With increasing public awareness of Lyme disease pharmacy teams are being directed to resources on the diagnosis, management and treatment of the disease available [here](#).

The bacterial infection is transmitted to humans as a result of a bite from an infected tick which could potentially be found in any of Scotland's green spaces. Symptoms of Lyme disease are varied and can look like many other conditions such as flu however the classic symptoms of a bulls eye rash around the bite can help in early diagnosis. Helpful patient infographics are available [here](#) for use within the Pharmacy.

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Please circulate to all staff

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

A list of your current hospital inpatients is sent to your shared mailbox every day.

The updated Forth Valley Formulary can be now accessed online via the Community Pharmacy Forth Valley website, available here: <https://pharmacies.nhsforthvalley.com/local-guidance/forth-valley-formulary/>

Celebrating HEAT Target Success

Well Done! The smoking cessation service HEAT targets have been met for 2018/19. Pharmacy Champions have been contacting community pharmacies to highlight patients that require a follow up on the PCR to improve the contribution to the HEAT target. Pharmacies are asked to ensure they have a process for completion of the 4 and 12 week reviews within the deadlines. We would like to thank all pharmacies for their continued support in allowing us to meet this target.

Buprenorphine low dose (7 day) switch to BUTEC

A reminder that NHS Forth Valley is moving to branded prescribing of buprenorphine patches. Prescribing habits are changing to reflect advice that prescriptions for strong opioids should be prescribed by brand name to help avoid prescribing and dispensing errors and maintain continuity of product. Low strength buprenorphine patches will be prescribed as Butec (applied ONCE weekly). The switch is now being under-taken in your local GP practices by Primary Care Pharmacists and Technicians.

Lidocaine Patch

Lidocaine patches are a planned prescribing switch for the financial year 2019/2020. Patients will be reviewed to ensure appropriate prescribing in line with the licensed indications and SMC advice. Patients will also be encouraged to undertake a trial stop, to assess benefit. Where the patches are being used appropriately and benefit is seen, the patches will be prescribed by the brand name *Relvo*. Primary Care Pharmacists and Technician in your local practices will advise you when the work is due to be undertaken in your local GP Practices.

Naloxone

Community Pharmacies will soon be encouraged to hold emergency naloxone (*Prenoxad*) which can be administered in an emergency to temporarily reverse opioid overdose and buy time for an ambulance response. This comes to light in response to a recent rise in drug deaths in Scotland and those most at risk of overdosing do not routinely carry naloxone in time of need. Naloxone can be legally administered by anyone in order to save a life, and this initiative will make naloxone more readily available. Pharmacies in Forth Valley will be provided with a 15 minute training session in their pharmacy to support the initiative. Pharmacies providing opiate substitution therapy can also provide Take Home Naloxone (THN) following attendance at a training session. The next event IEP/Naloxone training event is planned for Wednesday 2nd of October. This is a protected learning event for both pharmacists and technicians and details can be found in the diary dates section of the newsletter. In the meantime CPD and further training can be found [here](#).

MDS Payment

As of the 1st of June the process for obtaining monitored dosage systems has changed. Pharmacies must now purchase devices directly from the specified companies and then claim for reimbursement from NHS Forth Valley.

For reimbursement by NHS Forth Valley, pharmacies must ensure certain criteria are met including

- MDS patients must be resident within NHS Forth Valley but not in a care home
- MDS equipment is obtained from Venalink or Omnicell
- A copy of the invoice is submitted with claim forms
- The number of patients supplied MDS are recorded
- Any new patients will be assessed for MDS suitability and records kept for audit purposes

Copies of claims forms and suitability assessments can be found [here](#) with claims forms to be sent to Carol Droubay.

Diary Dates—Future Training Events

Hosted by	Name of event	Date	Venue	Time	PLT	For information or to register:
NHS Forth Valley	IEP/Naloxone Training	2/10/19	Room 2, Conference Centre Stirling Community Hospital	9am—16.30pm	YES	To register for the course email ann.mcgregor@nhs.net or phone 01786 434079. Open to a pharmacist and a technician from each site.

Melatonin prescribing

We are aware that some Specials Manufacturers and Suppliers have been requesting written authorisation from GPs for the supply of unlicensed melatonin capsules. FV Prescribers and Community Pharmacists are advised that where a statement of need is requested by the supplier, they can be provided with a copy of the FV letter which was circulated to shared mailboxes on 11th July. The FV letter clearly outlines the reason for the prescription of the unlicensed special. There is no need for individual Prescribers to be contacted by Community Pharmacies for separate, individual written confirmation; as all prescribing in NHS Forth Valley will be in line with the position stated in the letter, this can be provided by the Community Pharmacy to the supplier. Community pharmacies experiencing difficulties should contact the Prescribing Support Team.

Hospital Discharge Notifications

As all community pharmacies will be aware as of July 15th immediate discharge letters (IDL) are no longer sent to individual pharmacy PCR's. This is due to a number of IT issues which are still to be resolved. In the meantime, GP practices will receive IDLs via their shared mailboxes. Pharmacies will continue to receive the list of current inpatients which is sent each day by e-mail to their shared mailbox.

For patients using MDS devices, the pharmacy is advised to contact the GP practice when they notice a patient no longer appears on the 'inpatient list' which indicates they have been discharged from hospital.

Pharmacy First Payment

For all Pharmacy First Services provided from the **1st of July** please submit any claims to Carol Droubay on the separate **New Claim Forms** on a monthly basis. New forms are available from the NHS Forth Valley Community Pharmacy website [here](#). This will ensure that the correct payments are made and paid in a timely manner. Please note that the old Pharmacy First Service Claim Forms will not be accepted for payment for July onward claims. Any old claim forms received will be returned for the claims to be submitted on the appropriate new form.

Useful Contact Details

Community Pharmacy Services:

Pharmacy Department, Forth Valley Royal Hospital, Larbert, FK5 4WR
E-mail: FV-UHB.communitypharmacysupport@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