

Drug & Alcohol Services

CADS (Community alcohol and drug Service) has completed Prenoxad prescribing for all patients in the service. This was commenced during Covid to ensure all patients on OST (methadone or buprenorphine) have a Prenoxad kit and appropriate access to this important lifesaving treatment.

This has been agreed to continue every 6 months and we ask that you offer a brief intervention with these supplies. It is strongly encouraged to supply this with the patients OST and you may wish to note this on the patients PMR or PCR.

Should any patient refuse a supply please notify the prescribing service.

Safer Lithium dispensing

The NHS FV [Safer Lithium Dispensing Guidance](#) has been updated.

We hope this continues to be a helpful guide for community pharmacies when dispensing this high risk medicine. The dispensing guidance links with the wider [Guideline for the Management of Patients on Lithium](#)

The main point to note is that we now recommend monitoring of calcium in patients prescribed lithium.

It is important that all pharmacists are aware of the implications of physical illness on lithium levels.

Where patients on lithium are also suffering from a fever (as a result of Covid-19 or any illness) then the patient could suffer from dehydration and as a result this could promote an increase in lithium level and resultant toxicity. This could also occur if the patient has prolonged vomiting or diarrhoea.

Patients should be advised to remain hydrated.

Where symptoms continue for more than 48 hrs or where patients have an increase in lithium side-effects such as increasing tremor we would recommend patients are reviewed with Lithium level and renal function checked as appropriate.

When patients prescribed lithium are requiring antipyretic or analgesic therapy then they should only take paracetamol to relieve symptoms.

Ibuprofen and aspirin should not be utilised as required as these can interact with lithium to increase levels and possibility of toxicity.

Community Pharmacy Project Manager

Debbie Oakes has joined the Community Pharmacy Development Team as the Community Pharmacy Project Manager. Debbie is a pharmacy technician who has worked within NHS Forth Valley for just over 30 years. She started her career in Falkirk Royal and has worked in various sites across Forth Valley. She has a wealth of experience and has held various posts including vaccine services technician and more recently clinical technician at the Bellfield Centre. Debbie has been involved in implementing new services and is looking forward to working with community

pharmacies across Forth Valley. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Debbie at debbie.oakes@nhs.scot

Safe use of emollient to treat dry skin

Community pharmacy teams are reminded that updated guidance has been issued on the safe use of emollient skin creams to treat dry skin conditions as they can dry more easily onto clothing, bedding and bandages making them more flammable. Please make patients aware of this risk.

Please refer to for more information: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safe-use-of-emollient-skin-creams-to-treat-dry-skin-conditions>

Unlicensed specials

Community Pharmacists are reminded that a new authorisation is required for an Unlicensed Special when either the quantity on the prescription changes, or the price of the product increases by more than 20% above the currently authorised price.

Clinical Waste Management

Further to the e-mail dated 23/02/21 regarding waste audits, a member of the FV waste management team will shortly be contacting community pharmacies to arrange and carry out a pre assessment audit of your pharmaceutical waste.