

Medicines Optimisation news headlines

February 2015

1. The updated antibiotic app has arrived!

The guidelines for antibiotic prescribing in the community have now been updated in app form for mobile devices. For those who are already familiar with the app, just press update on your device and the new information will automatically be made available to you.

If you are new to the app, it can be accessed through the following web page for either the app store (iOS/apple) or google play (android): www.nhsantibioticguidelines.org.uk
The app will enable a rolling programme of updates so you will always have the latest information to hand.

Provision of the app has proved very successful. It has been downloaded more than 25,000 times to date, (12,271 for android and 12,870 for iOS).

Should you wish to download a pdf version of the guidelines, this is also available from the web page above.

Important Safety Issues

2. Oxycodone oral solution

There have been a number of adverse incidents reported recently, through NHS England, involving prescriptions for oxycodone oral solution. The concentrated 10mg in 5ml strength has been inadvertently prescribed instead of the intended 5mg in 5ml strength, due to the order in which these items appear on some clinical systems. At least two people have required hospital treatment. The majority of incidents have been generated by EMIS systems but other clinical systems are not immune. Prescribers are asked to take extra care to select the correct formulation when choosing any medicine from an offered list.

3. Missed doses of medication in care homes

[Guidance](#) is now available on the West Hampshire CCG website to help care homes decide on the actions to be taken when a dose of medication is missed. This could be because administration is inadvertently forgotten, or as a result of the resident being away from the home for an appointment elsewhere, or being asleep at the time the medication is due.

Advice covers simple steps to take for most medicines, through specific actions where timing of medication is particularly important, to a complete medication review if factors have arisen that cause planned administration times to be impractical. Please pass this information on to any care homes for which you provide medical cover.

4. Prescribe buprenorphine patches by brand

Patches containing buprenorphine have limited use but there are instances when they are the most appropriate choice of pain relief. There is now a selection of buprenorphine containing patches on the market with differing properties.

	Strengths	Licensed indication	Patch change every:
BuTrans	5microgram/hr, 10 microgram/hr 20microgram/hr	Non-malignant pain of moderate intensity when an opioid is necessary	7 days
Hapoctasin	35microgram/hr, 52.5microgram/hr 70microgram/hr	Moderate to severe cancer pain and severe pain which does not respond to non-opioid analgesics	3 days
Transtec	35microgram/hr, 52.5microgram/hr 70microgram/hr	Moderate to severe cancer pain and severe pain which does not respond to non-opioid analgesics	4 days

To avoid any confusion, it is recommended that buprenorphine patches are **always** prescribed by the brand name.

5. Website updates

Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)

Publications from this agency are now encompassed by the Department of Health website ([link](#)). The arrangements for sending out email alerts about Drug Safety Updates have changed. Click [here](#) if you wish to subscribe to future alerts.

Access to prescribing data

Now that the electronic Prescribing Analysis and Cost (ePACT) data is no longer available through the ePFIP system, practices who still wish to access their own ePACT data will need to register with the NHS Business Services Authority Information portal. By emailing nhsbsa.gpdata@nhs.net an "authoriser" account can be set up. Ideally this would be initially set up for either the Practice Manager or Prescribing Lead, who can then authorise additional accounts for any other practice staff requiring access to the data. Additional users can self-register on the NHSBSA website, found at: <https://apps.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/infosystems/welcome> and an email will then be sent to the "authoriser" to activate the account.

Data available to users includes:

- QIPP Comparators
- Out of Hours Care
- Prescribing Analysis Reports (PAR)
- Personally Administered Items
- 20 Leading Cost Drugs
- Repeat Dispensing
- Practice Detailed Prescribing Information (Courtesy of Sunderland CCG)

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