

LPC News

PHARMACEUTICAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT - PNA'S

The PNA will be eventually be used to facilitate control of entry.

On the 14th Jan, the Chairman, Secretary and Communications Officer travelled down to York to a listening event on the PNA. The LPC is convinced that this document will facilitate commissioning of services for pharmacy.

The idea is to forget where we are now and think about what the local needs of the population are - and to then commission pharmaceutical services, if they are required, to meet the local need - by looking for gaps in service provision.

The meeting took the form of a workshop and the following points emerged:-

- All PCTs (not clusters of PCTs) will need to produce (publish) a PNA...so there will be 3 in South of Tyne: South Tyneside, Sunderland and Gateshead.
- Each PCT has a statutory obligation to publish a PNA by Feb 2011.
- The PNA will need to be constantly amended as things change within the PCT area.
- The PNA will be used as part of the process for entry into the market place that will replace the current arrangements.
- Each PCT will be given money from the DOH to facilitate the production of the PNA
- The PCT have a statutory obligation to widely consult with stakeholders and the public during the process of assembling the PNA
- Hours of service will be important - not just whether provision is present or not.
- A new PNA will be published every 3 years

The PNA lead, responsible for publishing the document in all 3 PCTs in our area is Tracy Johnston. She has already begun considering the way forward and has confirmed to the LPC that contractors will be heavily involved with the process. To that end, the LPC welcomes any contractors thoughts at this early stage - please email the secretary with any comments.

MUR's - Medicine Usage Reviews

Not all pharmacies carry out Medicines Use Reviews (MURs); very few actually deliver on the maximum of 400 a year...which is what we should all aim for!

MURs are not difficult to do, but you must be accredited and so must the pharmacy.

The remuneration obtained from this advanced service is money contractors previously got through the supply chain...so NOT doing 400 MURs in a year actually leads to income loss!

Many contractors find that the key to achieving MUR targets is to mobilise support staff to identify suitable clients.

If you have any issues around MURs or examples where MUR has really improved a patient's condition - please email LPC news and we'll share it with others (anonymously if you want!).

NHS Healthchecks:

The PCT have started the process of rolling out the NHS Healthchecks service to a second tranche of pharmacies. They held two evening sessions in February 2010 to inform pharmacists about the service and what it involved. If you are interested in providing the service and haven't managed to attend one of these evenings then contact Philip Ray or Amanda Healy at the PCT (0191 529 7000 main switchboard). There has been a bit of publicity surrounding the NHS health checks with some of the early implementors appearing in the local news papers and one (our own Secretary Louise Lydon) appearing on the ITV local news.

The publicity sends out a great message to the public and really helps to promote pharmacy. The LPC would like to thank the PCT for working hard to get this Media publicity out there and would like to say well done to the pharmacists involved.



ELECTRONIC PRESCRIBING SPECIAL

You may be wondering what is happening with electronic prescribing.

Whilst everything seems quiet the LPC have been engaged with the NHS about EPS/ETP and our members have constantly been receiving information. So we thought a round up of the available information would be useful for you to get an understanding of where EPS is and where it is heading.

EPS ROLLOUT IS TAKING LONGER THAN ANTICIPATED

NHS Connecting for Health

NHS Connecting for Health has produced a new and informative electronic bulletin to keep NHS staff, GP practices and Pharmacies up-to-date with the latest news and views. The EPS Bulletin will be broadcast every two months and sent out to key stakeholders. To subscribe go to

<http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/systemsandservices/eps/staff/communications>



EPS Release 1 v's Release 2

Release 1 of electronic prescribing involves prescription tokens being produced by GP surgeries (i.e. ordinary prescriptions with bar-codes!) and pharmacies drawing down the data from the NHS spine using bar-code scanning technology.

Release 2 has no paper prescription. Data is sent to the pharmacy (like an email) and the signal appears in the pharmacy computer or the pharmacy can request the signal from the NHS spine. In the early days of release 2, pharmacies will need to print off the prescriptions within the pharmacy to allow dispensing to take place (i.e. to allow something to check against!) and to allow the patient to have some form of receipt in order to order the next months supply.

Release 2 - Local Pilot

The local pilot for Release 2 of electronic prescribing will occur in Sunderland. This will use dummy data over a period of 3 weeks and it is hoped that the system will go live after that.

This first of type testing is taking place between a "paired" GP surgery and pharmacy. Once the system goes live, only selected patients, who have agreed to take part - with fully informed consent, and who are on regular repeat medication will be in this "live phase" This live phase will take many months before further roll out involving other outlets and patients.

It was hoped that the pilot would start in January 2010 but it has been delayed as suitable patients are still being signed up. The pilot is still expected to begin before Easter, however, and once 2,500 prescriptions have been successfully completed, approval will follow for full deployment and country wide roll-out of the system will follow.

After roll out, once a pharmacy has sent "a golden prescription" to the PPD to confirm everything is functioning properly with EPS release 2 - £1000 will be given to the pharmacy. This is an agreed sum to cover operational costs for a pharmacy becoming EPS release 2 compliant. Once a pharmacy is able to accept prescriptions via release 2, the only way such prescriptions will be able to be obtained is via the new smart card. This new smart card, however, will be needed only for downloading prescriptions or uploading data to the PPD. Once the prescription data is in the pharmacy computer, the data can be manipulated in the usual way. As discussed below, every member of staff downloading prescriptions will need their own new smart card - and these cards will only be issued when the system is live.

IT - Supplier Delays

Sunderland PCT who are keen to push forward with Pharmacy-GP pairings are encountering problems with the suppliers of computer systems. Suppliers for both Pharmacy and GPs have rolling 3 month due dates and most have failed to come through sand pit testing.



EMIS, which provides 90% of GP systems (either LV or PCS) in Sunderland, has disrupted initial pairings by developing a new operating system called EMIS WEB on which they will host EPS. This will delay roll out as this system will need to be developed from scratch. EMIS will then need to "sell" the new system to GP's.

To date, the only possible pairing for small scale testing is to use Dr Khalidi's Practice which uses the IN VISION system. Dr Khalidi's main practice is based at Pallion Health Centre, which will be paired with Rowlands Pharmacy.

However, the initial "token" testing will be taking place between Dr Khalidi's satellite practice in Ryhope and the pharmacy in Ryhope Health Centre.

From a Pharmacy point of view, the first approved system available is Cegedim's Pharmacy Manager.

It seems that it will be some time before Release 2 is fully up and running but as pharmacists we have the advantage that it seems the pharmacy systems will be deployed long before GP systems. This has the advantage that all pharmacies will be in the position of accepting e-prescriptions before any such prescriptions are sent. Hopefully, giving pharmacists time to gain confidence with the new methods of transfer.

EPS Smartcards

Over the last few months most pharmacies have surrendered their personal smart cards for a universal smart card for the pharmacy.

Soon those cards will be withdrawn and new personal cards will be issued again. The reason for this, is because the new cards will have more functionality and will be fit for future purpose. Ultimately every member of staff will need their own smart cards although at first, each pharmacy will need a lead sponsor, who will subsequently sponsor every member of staff who needs a card. Sponsors will have the privilege of being able to unlock staff cards if they become locked-up.

Obviously having staff members signing in and out on every prescription is a nightmare scenario for community pharmacy and many questions need to be asked and solutions found or work load problems will be catastrophic!

LPC news will keep you up-to-date with developments.

Regional Drugs and Therapeutics Centre

The Northern and Yorkshire Region Drug Therapeutic Centre (NYRDTC) provides a comprehensive therapeutic medicines information and advisory service to NHS healthcare professionals in the NHS Northern and Yorkshire region. As part of the UKMi network, their aim is to support the safe, effective and efficient use of medicines by the provision of evidence-based information and advice on the therapeutic use of medicines. They also publish Medicines Q&As and critical appraisals of emergent and recently-launched new drugs.

The Medicines Information Service is staffed by a multidisciplinary team of pharmacists, medical information scientists, and nurses, with medical support provided by a consultant physician. The knowledge and experience of the staff of the centre is supported by access to a wide range of pharmaceutical and biomedical information, including computer databases, reference texts, medical and pharmaceutical periodicals, and in-house files. The service is available Monday to Friday 09:00 – 17:00 and can be contacted on 0191 260 6198 or by visiting our website at www.nyrdtc.nhs.uk

Misuse of Drugs Act

On the 23rd December 2009 there was an amendment to the Misuse of Drugs Act. From that date onwards Nabilone capsules 1mg were reclassified as a Schedule 2 Controlled Drug which means they are subject to full prescription requirements, safe custody and register entries.

Controlled Drugs

At a recent Gateshead methadone meeting Ken Dale (Controlled Drugs Inspector) mentioned that very soon all pharmacies in Gateshead & South Tyne will be visited by police officers from Special Branch.

There is nothing to be concerned about as they are personally delivering a letter from DC Ken Dale. Due to the heightened terror threat the letter is asking pharmacists and their staff to be vigilant in selling certain chemicals such as acetone and hydrogen peroxide to suspicious individuals.

PCT Round Up

Audits: The PCT-led Multidisciplinary Audit was sent out in January and should be carried out in February. By the time you are reading this, you should have sent it back to the PCT. Have you also completed your own pharmacy audit and returned that to the PCT?

Surveys: Time is ticking to the end of March. All pharmacies must have gathered a specific number of patient's surveys with respect to the service provided by the pharmacy. Don't leave it until the last minute. Start gathering replies now and prevent a last minute rush.

Practice Leaflets : As part of the pharmacy contract each pharmacy needs a practice leaflet and the PCt need to have a copy of this. Even if you sent a copy last year we recommend you also send a copy this year with all your other contract paper work

Drug Tariff Round Up

Drug Tariff News Dipyridamole MR costs for November 2009 incorrect

In November 2009 the cost of dipyridamole caps 200mg M/R 60 pack was listed incorrectly as £37.49 per pack of 60 instead of £7.50. NHS Prescription Services is sorry but it is not able to amend its information systems retrospectively to reflect the correct price for November, however data from December onwards will have the correct costs attributed.

NHS Prescription Services will address overpayments made to any contractors who dispensed dipyridamole caps 200mg M/R 60 pack in November, which will then be 'fair shared' across all PCTs.

NCSO

So far no drugs have been listed as eligible for the NCSO endorsement in February 2010 but check the PSNC website or NHS Prescription Services website regularly to make sure you keep up to date: http://www.psn.org.uk/news.php/662/ncso_february_2010

<http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/PrescriptionServices/935.aspx>

New Battery Regulations:

New regulations came into force in February 2010 affecting all retailers who sell more than 32kg of portable batteries per year. These new regulations will require such retailers to take back all used batteries from the public free of charge, not just the ones they sell. Additionally, customers will need to be informed about this take back facility. Retailers will not need to offer this facility if they sell less than 32kg of batteries per year, or if the batteries they sell are only in battery containing equipment and batteries are not sold separately. Equipment falling into this category may include electric toothbrushes, electric razors, disposable cameras and blood pressure monitors. More information is available from: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/producer/batteries/documents/recycling-batteries.pdf>

ALCOHOL IBA TRAINING



Alcohol Identification and Brief Advice (IBA) is effective in helping people who drink in a harmful way to reduce their alcohol consumption and our IBA course will enable you to:

- Develop a prompt tool to help you "Think Drink" for common presentations
- Raise the issue of alcohol related harm using a simple and non-confrontational "opening"
- Calculate "Units" confidently
- Assess a clients readiness to change and modify your response accordingly
- Deliver advice in a short, personalised and structured way

First Contact Clinical are offering a course to help pharmacists with Alcohol IBA. The course is in two parts and is supported by their website www.alcoholfirstcontact.co.uk :

1. An on-line pre-learning programme (max of 60 mins). This gives the theory behind IBA and describes the effects of drinking at a higher than recommended level.

2. A practical skills workshop (120 mins). This will equip you with the practical skills and confidence to identify the early signs of harmful drinking and to raise the issue of alcohol with the patient. You will be able to accurately assess their risks.



First contact have arranged some open session, i.e. anyone can attend for the first Tuesday of each month, the dates and venues are:

| | |
|------------|----------------|
| 06/04/2010 | South Tyneside |
| 04/05/2010 | Sunderland |
| 01/06/2010 | Gateshead |
| 06/07/2010 | South Tyneside |
| 03/08/2010 | Sunderland |
| 07/09/2010 | Gateshead |
| 05/10/2010 | South Tyneside |
| 02/11/2010 | Sunderland |
| 07/12/2010 | Gateshead |

If you would like more information please contact first contact clinical biacohol@firstcontactclinical.co.uk or 0191 427 4685



First Contact Clinical

NEW YEARS DAY

Will New Years Day follow the same way as Boxing Day?

Don't panic just yet!

Last Christmas, the PCT took the decision to force all contractors who are usually open on Saturdays, with core hours including Saturdays, to open on Boxing Day. The principle adopted was enforced throughout the PCT area.

This decision caused a lot of upset for pharmacy as Christmas plans had to be amended and LPC officers had many calls over the festive period from upset contractors.

At the recent LPC officers meeting, it emerged that New Year's Day - Saturday Jan 1st next year is similar. LPC chairman, Dave Carter, said "I have never worked new year's day - it's always been a holiday and this threat to spoil a holiday seems unfair."

The PCT have indicated that they are sympathetic to the plight of pharmacy staff and want to work with us in a collaborative manner to minimise disruption over the new year period and ensure adequate provision of pharmaceutical services.

The message is not to panic at this stage, The LPC is hopeful of a speedy resolution. Many people go away for new year celebrations and many plans will have to be changed if it isn't sorted out soon!

Nationally PSNC is working with the relevant department and sense may prevail.



New Years Day falls on a Saturday and you may be expected to work.

Information Governance

A hardcopy of the Pharmacy IG Workbook was posted to every pharmacy in January 2010. All community pharmacies are required to complete an online baseline assessment against the requirements in the Information Governance Toolkit by 31 March 2010. This will provide a baseline for improvements to be carried out where necessary. All staff working in pharmacies that have access to personal information about patients must undertake basic training on Information Governance.

Those pharmacies that are part of national multiples will have their own Head Office lead for IG, who will let managers know what they need to do. The LPC are working with the PCT IG team to put on training to inform pharmacists about the IG requirements and everyone will be welcome, wherever you work.

PSNC have been involved in developing comprehensive guidance and tools to support pharmacies, including template policies, standard operating procedures and patient information material. Go to www.psn.org.uk/pages/ig.html for more information. Support on using the online Information Governance Toolkit is available from a Connecting for Health Helpdesk: pharmacy.assurance@nhs.net or tel 0113 394 6540.

DH & PSNC reached agreement on the funding for the pharmacy contract for 2009/10, with a proportion of the excess margin being used in 2009/10 to fund one-off infrastructure investments, which includes progressing the information governance requirements.

LPC Elections

The current LPC committee will stand down at the end of March 2010 and a new committee will be elected in its place. Malcolm Goldie (Former Secretary) kindly agreed to be the returning officer for the election of the new committee. You will have received the nomination forms in the last couple of months. The deadline for nominations has now passed and a new committee is in the process of being formed and will meet for the first time in April. The full details of the new committee were not ready in time for this edition of the LPC News so a separate newsletter will be distributed once the new committee has been confirmed.

LPC Survey

You should find a copy of the LPC survey with this newsletter. This is your opportunity to let the LPC know how you think they have done over the last four years. Please complete it and return it to our support officer, Kathryn Featherstone at 6, Lumley Thicks, Chester-le-street, Co Durham. The LPC has itself recently completed a self-assessment on its governance status and work and the results will be posted on our new website very shortly. Copies of the LPC Survey will also be released on the website. www.gandstlpc.net

Electronic Version

Would you like to receive the LPC News by Email?

If you would like to receive the LPC News by email contact

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Contact us

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For comment about anything in the LPC News or to contribute information please contact our Communications officer.

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