Community Pharmacy BLMK & Northants

Weekly Newsletter – w/c 27 May 2024

National Updates

General Election Campaigning begins.

The Prime Minister has announced the date for the next UK General Election as **4 July 2024**, and Community Pharmacy England (CPE) is continuing the critical work to build supporters in readiness for the new Parliament.

An election campaigning period is a good time to reach out to political parties and prospective candidates to get them thinking about community pharmacies and the role they play in supporting their communities and the wider NHS.

As part of CPE work to draw attention to pharmacy pressures, we need pharmacy owners and teams to help amplify this and are asking as many of you as possible to contact your local election candidates to make sure all parties recognise the significance of community pharmacy.

CPE have latest **briefings for politicians** and **guidance for writing** to your MP on their **website**.

You can find your local MP on the **UK Parliament website** by adding your postcode or address.

Hypertension Case-Finding Service reminder (#3): How do I engage with my general practices.

This is the third of a series of articles to help maximise the potential of the Hypertension Case-Finding Service.

Local News

BLMK Contraception guidance.

New contraception guidance and emergency contraception guidance has been developed to support primary care clinicians when making recommendations and choices for contraception. Formulary choices have been reviewed and amendments made in line with current recommendations and cost-effective prescribing choices. In addition drospirenone has been added, as a second line choice of progesterone only contraceptive pill with SpIS traffic light designation (**see formularies for full details**).

Northants formulary contraception guidance has not yet been added to their website, however, in the interim we have added it to **BLMK-N-LPC website** (BNF Chapter 7 Genito-urinary system). The following links can be used to access once it has been uploaded on to their website, **NHS Northamptonshire** and **Integrated Care Northamptonshire**.

Training & Events

Invitation to BLMK Pharmacy First Service Webinar Series

The BLMK Pharmacy First Service Webinar Series is a local initiative aimed at fostering collaboration and successful implementation of the Pharmacy First Service within primary care networks (PCNs) and community pharmacies in the integrated neighbourhoods.

The fourth cohort of webinars now starting for Central Bedfordshire are on:

- **Leighton Buzzard** **Tuesday 4 June** **12:30 – 13:30**
- **Sandhills/Green Sands/Ivel** **Wednesday 5 June** **12:30 – 13:30**
- **Green Vale Health** **Thursday 6 June** **12:30 – 13:30**

Please note that attendance at the scheduled webinar for your PCN is required as a priority. However, if you miss your session, you can attend the same webinar at a neighbouring PCN on a different date. **Link for the webinar.** A list of the full dates and times can be found on the **BLMK-N-LPC website -Training and Events.**

CPPE training available on NHS Pharmacy First: Sinusitis.

This programme aims to support pharmacy professionals to develop the knowledge, the skills and confidence needed to undertake effective consultations, clinical assessment, and treatment of sinusitis under the NHS Pharmacy First Service.

An online webinar to discuss the prevention and treatment of acute UTI's in Primary Care.

On **Tuesday 25 June 2024 1-2pm**, NHS England East of England will be holding a webinar for Primary Care colleagues for treating patients with acute UTI's.
Full information to access the webinar can be found on the **BLMK-N-LPC website.**

Reminders

Pharmacy Advice Audit starting from Monday 3 June 2024.

From **Monday 3 June 2024**, pharmacies are asked to select just **one** day between the **3 and 16 June 2024**, to record data about patients seeking informal advice (outside of the Pharmacy First service). The audit has been designed to be as straightforward as possible, with guidance below:
Team Guide – This sets out the criteria for inclusion, what needs to be recorded and how to reflect on your pharmacy's results.
Audit Template – This provides a simple way to record the required data, making things smoother to add data onto your IT platform.

Data Security and Protection Toolkit 2023/24
Deadline for completion for all community pharmacy contractors is **20 June 2024**.
For more information please see NHS process and guidance.

Medicines

General:
DHSC's May 2024 Price Concessions 1st Update.

National Patient Safety Alert:
National Patient Safety Alert: Shortage of Pancreatic enzyme replacement therapy (PERT).

Serious Shortage Protocol (SSP):
Creon 10000 gastro-resistant capsules.
Creon 25000 gastro-resistant capsules.

Medicines Supply Notifications:
Two Clarithromycin SSPs reactivated.
Salbutamol 2.5mg/2.5ml and 5mg/2.5 nebuliser liquid unit dose vials.
Clarithromycin 125mg/5ml and 250mg/5ml oral suspensions.
Nortriptyline 10mg/5ml and 25mg/5ml solution sugar free.

MHRA Medicines Notifications:
Keppra 500mg film-coated tablets (Doncaster Pharma Limited).
Sodium Chloride 0.9% Intravenous Infusion BP Freeflex and Freeflex PLUS (Fresenius Kabi Limited).