Community Pharmacy BLMK & Northants

Weekly Newsletter – w/c 2 September 2024

National Updates

Pharmacy First thresholds for September.

Following representation by Community Pharmacy England (CPE) Ministers agreed to make an adjustment for August but there have been no further updates since then. This means that, as things stand, the Pharmacy First threshold will be **increasing to 20 clinical pathway consultations for the month of September**.

NHS England issues advice ahead of early release of prisoners.

NHS England has written to ICB's providing advice relevant to community pharmacies and general practices ahead of the early release of people from prisons later this month and in October.

Engage with your MP: New animation released.

CPE has developed a short video to tell MPs about the issues and potential of community pharmacy, communicating key messages in a concise and engaging way.

Legislation restricting the sale and supply of gonadotrophin – releasing hormone analogues extended.

Last week the Government made the Medicines (Gonadotrophin – Releasing Hormone Analogues) (Emergency Prohibition) (Extension) Order 2024, which has the effect of extending the ban, which was due to expire. The ban has been extended until **26 November 2024**.

Warning over 'pharmacy deserts' after closures in rural areas.

New analysis of NHSBSA data by the NPA warns that many rural areas could become "pharmacy deserts" if current closure rates continue.

Update on Independent Prescribing in Community Pharmacy Pathfinder Programme.

NHS England has been working nationally to procure a clinical system which will allow community pharmacists who are part of the independent prescriber Pathfinder programme to generate prescriptions via the NHS Electronic Prescription Service. This system CLEO – SOLO from Cleo Systems, has started being rolled out to 'pathfinder' sites do they can start delivering their proposed prescribing models and pathways. ICB's have been informed and are asked to provide support to their sites throughout the programme.

Local News

BLMK & Northamptonshire LPC AGM.

Our AGM will be held **online on Wednesday 11 September 2024 at 12 noon**, to deliver the accounts and reports to contractors.

Voting slips were emailed to all contractors in August with instructions on how to cast your vote. If you require this to be resent, please contact anne-marie.king@blmk-n-community.pharmacy.org.uk.

FAO Northants Discharge Medicine Service:

Please can Northants pharmacies complete the survey word document and email back to margieo'connell@nhs.net by **15 September 2024**.

The aim of the survey is to get a picture from pharmacies as to the volume of DMS they see and what experiences that have in undertaking the service.

The intention of the outcomes of the survey is to feed into discussions with Northants Hospitals and the ICB as how to improve the quality of information on discharge and improve interface ways of working in Primary Care.

Training & Events

NHS England - #Ask About Asthma Webinar

On **Tuesday 10 September 2024 7:30pm – 8:30pm** a **free webinar** is being run to learn about how pharmacy can support improvements in asthma care for children and young people.

For more information about the webinar and to reserve your place visit NHS England website.

Reminders

Flu Vaccination start dates and comms for patients.

The start date for the flu vaccination will be **Thursday 3 October 2024**, with an exception for pregnant women, which is 1 September 2024.

The service specification is clear that the NHS will not pay for vaccinations administered outside of the announced dates for vaccination.

Medicines

General:

Reminder – Rivaroxaban tablets – changes to reimbursement from September 2024.
Drug Tariff Watch - September 2024.
August 2024 Price Concessions Final Update.

Medicine Supply Notifications:

Naloxone (Nyxoid) 1.8mg/0.1 nasal spray unit dose.