

FIFE PHARMACY NEWS

FIFE PHARMACY

NHS
Fife

ISSUE 38 AUTUMN 2011

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Many thanks to everyone who has completed the SurveyMonkey survey on medicine shortages – and to those who have IT issues accessing the survey, we are working on alternative methods of getting your views too.

In this issue we have a print off page for Who's who at Pharmacy Services, to know who to contact for which topic, news on the launch of the Stop Smoking toolkit, success stories from a client who has quit using the Stop Smoking service, and some photos from the Pharmacy Team day, held in August.

Remember this is your newsletter, so if you have any comments or suggestions, or items you think should be included in future issues, please don't hesitate to get in touch!

Fiona Forsyth fionaforsyth@nhs.net or Natalie Bate natalie.bate@nhs.net, 01383 565375.

Keep Well event at Postings, Kirkcaldy

Keep Well health checks took place at the Postings shopping centre, Kirkcaldy on 28 July 2011 with events throughout the Centre.

A Keep Well stand was in the Postings Centre, with Lloyds Pharmacy helping to promote the Keep Well health checks. Throughout the day, 28 people had mini health checks and 13 had complete Keep Well Health checks. 16 Health checks were also carried out on behalf of the Improving Health Team.

Health Checks are available if you're 40 to 64 years old- these checks are available through your GP, nurse led Keep Well clinics or at participating pharmacies.

At the Keep Well health check, a health professional will run a few quick checks to see whether you're at risk of diabetes, high blood pressure or heart disease. Practical advice is offered on how you can reduce your risk of developing any of these conditions. Advice on welfare, literacy and employability is also available. Further Keep Well events in conjunction with Fife Pharmacy are planned for September, October and November.

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Pharmacy newsletters go online!!

Fife Pharmacy News and Fife Prescribing Update newsletters will now be issued only by email to Hospital pharmacies, Community Pharmacies, GP surgeries, the Intranet and NHS Fife staff.

The reasons for this are to encourage staff to use the Intranet as a source of information, and to reduce the amount of materials printed in NHS Fife, and potentially reducing costs.

If anyone wishes to be sent a printed version of either newsletter, please contact myself or Fiona on the email addresses below. We hope that by using email and online communications that information will be sent out more efficiently and to the correct people, meaning pharmacists and pharmacy staff can be kept better informed on projects and policies within NHS Fife.

Natalie Bate – natalie.bate@nhs.net
Fiona Forsyth – fionaforsyth@nhs.net

Fundraising Events

- Ann Kemp, Admin Assistant at Pharmacy Services took part in a 5K challenge to raise money for breast cancer research. She would like to thank everyone for sponsoring her to raise funds for Professor Mike Dixon at the Edinburgh Breast Clinic to help fund much needed research into Breast Cancer. She raised £262.00 and the final total for the event raised a staggering £14,000.

Lyon to Nice, 500km, 6000m climb, AND NAKED BUT NOT EMBARRASSED

- Dougie McPhail, Primary Care Development Pharmacist was part of the UK team taking part in a "naked" cycle across France. The UK team are known as Dunfermline MAMILS (Middle Aged Men In Lycra).

20 "Naked" Cyclists successfully cycled over the highest road in Europe, the objective being to highlight the awareness of male cancer and need for men to overcome embarrassment and seek early detection and treatment.

After some of the team cycled round Scotland and over to Applecross, the highest road in the UK, the ultimate challenge was decided upon: to climb the "Col de la Bonette", the highest road in Europe (2691m - 9000ft), where the air is thin and even cars struggle to breathe!! Such a challenge was a great platform for the Male Cancer Awareness Campaign - as a high profile event, it turned out to be a great fundraising opportunity.

This was a truly international venture with participants being a mix of 7 from Scotland and 13 from France. The average age of the group is close to 50, the age when men should go for a "Bloke MOT" and start checking the prostate on a regular basis.

A total of £7480 was raised for the challenge - thanks to everyone who sponsored the event.



Tax relief for Technicians!

Are you now a Registered Pharmacy Technician? Well there is some good news - you can get a bit of tax relief now that you are required to pay professional registration fees. This allowance is only available to individuals who pay their own registration fees.

It will only take a 5 minute telephone call.

You will need to have your pay slip handy because it holds all the information you will be asked.

This is something that you can do as an individual. Your employer cannot do it for you.

You can phone HMRC on 0845 300 0627. You want to report a change to your individual circumstances which affect your tax allowance. You should tell HMRC that you are required to pay professional registration fees, currently £142 per year. They will check that the GPhC are on their list of recognised regulators - which they are. They will then increase your tax allowance. You do not need to inform your employer because it is all done by HMRC.

For those of you who have been registered for some time, you may be able to claim back tax relief on registration fees for up to 5 years. You will be advised that you need to send HMRC a letter to request this.

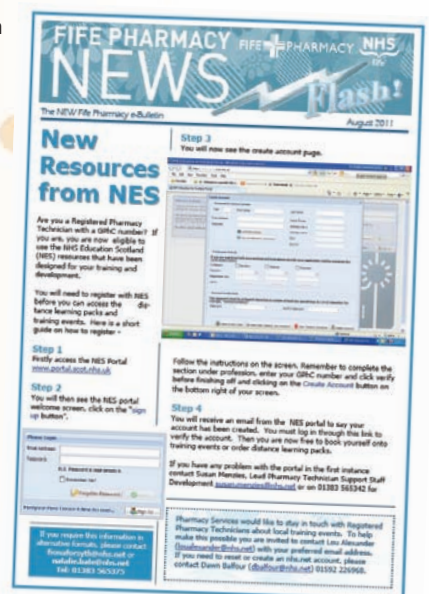
Fife Pharmacy NewsFlash! - New e-Bulletin Launched!

The Communication team at Pharmacy Services has developed a new e-bulletin, "Fife Pharmacy NewsFlash!". The electronic bulletin will be distributed as necessary for urgent news items and will contain the very latest information on various issues such as training and personal development, service updates as well as pharmacy contract news and developments.

PDF copies of the e-bulletin will be distributed via email, however paper copies are available from Natalie and Fiona, Communications Officers - Natalie.bate@nhs.net or fionaforsyth@nhs.net.

The first bulletin covers the NES resources being available to Registered Pharmacy Technicians and was sent out electronically in August.

Look out for the next edition.



May Payment Schedule – Items Claimed Electronically

There was a new page included in the Payment Schedules this month summarising the electronic claim level for the ePharmacy AMS service. There have been some enquiries from CPs querying the information on this form.

The following points should be noted:

- The box labelled Total Number of Paid Items should be interpreted as the Total Number of Paid Items on GP10 forms where PSD has successfully captured the barcode. It will be a smaller number than the Total Number of Paid Items found elsewhere on the Payment Schedule.
- The box labelled Total Number of Items Claimed Electronically may be less than the number of claims submitted from the Pharmacy in cases where a CP dispenses from GP10s supplied by an EMIS GP system. There was a problem with Emis electronic messages that made them unsafe for payment automation. This has now been fixed but has not yet been fully deployed to all GPs by EMIS. PSD automatically blocks electronic claims from CPs where the Emis GP system is below this patch level, and claims that are blocked by PSD do not appear in this total. Only a small number of EMIS systems remain to be upgraded.
- The two lines below the boxes labelled "Please note" should not have appeared on this page, and there is no payment adjustment related to this information

Community Pharmacy Scotland apologises for any confusion caused. This page of the schedule will be modified to reflect the above in future months.

CMS Registration Levels

Each Pharmacy with CMS registrations was recently sent a note of the total number of patients they have registered for CMS. Unfortunately, for the majority of contractors, the number shown was incorrect. The calculation failed to take account of patients registered between May 2010 and December 2010, and only shows a count of the patients registered in 2011. The registration count is therefore understated for around 85% of contractors. This report has now been fixed and will show the correct data in future month.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Allan and Jill Shields on the arrival of baby Dylan on 26 May 2011 weighing 6lb 6.5oz.

Ian Wright on celebrating his 50th birthday in June

Natalie Bate on celebrating her 30th birthday in July.



Summer Just Ask

This year's summer Just Ask campaign focused on self care during the summer months – with pharmacies able to offer help for first aid, bites and stings and hayfever and allergies.

Pharmacies across Fife took part in the window display competition, and we're delighted to announce that Dears Pharmacy, Glamis Centre, Glenrothes are the winners!! Thanks to everyone for all their hard work – we have plans for a different campaign for 2012 to possibly replace the Just Ask campaigns – more details coming soon!



Pharmacy Team Day 2011

Over 20 colleagues in the Pharmacy team took part in the Pharmacy Team Day 2011 at Lynebank Hospital. The aim of the day was to promote better communication within the team, as communication was a key strand discussed at the Pharmacy Strategy Day in June this year.

The day included team building games such as balloon towers, making bridges, blindfolded shape-making, 3 legged races and an obstacle course, as well as a Pharmacy quiz and a trampoline!

The winning team called "Half and Half" won first prize of £20 Frankie and Benny's vouchers, with the runner up team "Hot Flush and a Wannabe" winning £10 ASDA vouchers (both vouchers kindly donated by the companies). The day was planned and organised using existing activities and materials within Lynebank, and was completed successfully without spending any budget.



Fife Pharmacy helping patients to successfully quit for good!

The "No Butts" Fife Pharmacy stop smoking service has had a number of successful quitters recently. The service includes free counseling, practical advice and a range of products that can help wean people off their addiction to nicotine.

Alex Wright from Dysart took full advantage of the "No Butts" Pharmacy Stop Smoking Service. A smoker for over 30 years, Alex decided to quit and visited Dysart Pharmacy where he took part in a 12 week support programme.

Alex said, "The pharmacy provided an excellent service, giving up was much easier than I thought. The service was handy, simple and free and I liked the one to one support offered by the pharmacy staff".

Pharmacies are ideal to provide a stop smoking service as they are a highly convenient and easily accessible source of healthcare information, advice and treatment.

For further details about other local Stop Smoking services, visit your local pharmacy or call 0800 025 3000.



Alex Wright (left) with Allan Sheilds, Community Pharmacist, Dysart Pharmacy

Stop Smoking Toolkit

Fife Pharmacy are launching a new toolkit to support the No Butts stop smoking service.

The toolkit is a double sided flip chart – with one side facing the pharmacy support staff, the other facing the client. Each side gives prompts and advice to each, with benefits of stopping to the client and assessing which NRT will be suitable for the client.

The toolkit was designed to make the service easier for newly-trained staff to deliver, and to clarify the journey of the stop smoking service, knowing which questions to ask, when. A pilot of the toolkit took place across three pharmacies for 4 weeks, and proved so successful with the staff, they refused to give the toolkits back!

The toolkits will be rolled out across every pharmacy in Fife.

The Fife pharmacy No Butts service includes free counseling, practical advice and a range of products that can help wean people off their addiction to nicotine.

Pharmacies are a highly convenient and easily accessible source of healthcare information, advice and treatment.



Medicine call:
COUNCILLOR Tim Brett has highlighted the problem of a shortage of medicines across Fife. He said on average 83 pharmacies do not have two medicines every day, and blamed a new system from pharmaceutical companies which means pharmacists have to fax a copy of the prescription to get them to release stock.

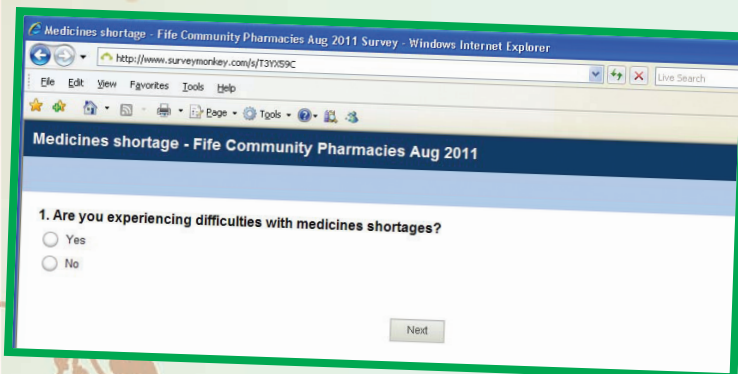
Medicines Shortages survey

Pharmacy Services recently sent out a quick 5 minute survey to every Community Pharmacy in Fife, asking what the current situation is regarding medicines shortages.

The survey was sent online, and the deadline to complete is 31 August 2011.

If you have not been sent this survey, please contact Natalie Bate on natalie.bate@nhs.net / Fiona Forsyth on fionaforsyth@nhs.net or phone 01383 565375, and if you have not yet completed it, please do so as soon as possible.

Many thanks – results will be published in the next issue of Fife Pharmacy News, and will be used as research towards a medicines shortage review across Fife.



Who's who at Pharmacy Services

Please see below for a print, cut out and keep page on Who's Who at Pharmacy Services, to be displayed within your staff room. Details of who to contact for which service are below:



Lou Alexander

01383 565376

loualexander@nhs.net

- Keep Well Service
- Counterweight Service
- Community Pharmacy Training Events
- PGDs
- NHS 24 CPUS



Margaret Vass

01383 565345

Margaret.vass@nhs.net

- Medical gas queries
- Safe storage and handling, advice regarding individual patient issues i.e. patients going on holiday
- Cold-chain storage
- Vaccine issue



Sheila Dall

01383 565351

Sheila.dall@nhs.net

- Compliance Aids
- Controlled Drugs
- Palliative Care
- Just in Case boxes



Yvonne Bunting

01592 226419

yvonnebunting@nhs.net

Contractual Issues:

- Inclusion / Withdrawal / Change of Ownership
- Change to Contract
- Change in Hours
- Change to pharmacist
- Supplying of Additional Services

Additional Service Claims:

- Oxygen
- Buprenorphine
- Collection & Delivery
- Out of Hours Rota
- Care Homes



Susan Menzies

01383 565342

susan.menzies@nhs.net

- Availability / appropriateness of courses for staff
- Help to support these individuals (funding or help with course work)
- Stop smoking, keep well, counterweight services.



Natalie Bate/ Fiona Forsyth - Communications

01383 565375

natalie.bate@nhs.net

fionaforsyth@nhs.net

- Just Ask/ Public Health campaigns
- Journalist enquiries/ publicity for new services
- Fife Pharmacy News/Fife Prescribing Update newsletter ideas/articles
- Fundraising
- New services/ pilot programmes communications and publicity

Fife Pharmacy First for Hepatitis C testing

On 28 July 2011, NHS Fife launched a new Hepatitis C testing service at St Clair Pharmacy, Kirkcaldy, to coincide with World Hepatitis Day. The pharmacy is the first community pharmacy in Scotland to start pharmacist-led testing for Hepatitis C with a simple blood test. It was chosen due to the pharmacy already offering a needle exchange and methadone service.

The test at St Clair Pharmacy involves a simple blood test, and can be taken in the privacy of the consultation room within the pharmacy, with no need to make an appointment. If you think you may have been infected, please visit the pharmacy for more information on the Hepatitis C testing service.

Community Pharmacist at St Clair Street Pharmacy, Arvinder Bilon said: "We are excited about being the first pharmacy in Scotland to pilot Hepatitis C testing, and World Hepatitis Day is an excellent opportunity to raise the awareness of this important health issue.

"Viral hepatitis is preventable but there is a need for greater awareness of the illness, how to reduce the risks of contracting it and how to prevent transmitting it to others. Testing within pharmacies is ideal as they are convenient, accessible and there is no need to make an appointment."

The Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) is a major cause of liver disease, but is often called a silent epidemic as a person can be infected with Hepatitis C for many years without

having any symptoms. If left untreated, Hepatitis C can eventually progress to cause serious liver damage. Although Hepatitis C is a serious illness it can be treated. Early diagnosis and anti-viral treatment completely clears the virus in up to 80% of cases, reducing liver damage and complications, and stopping infected people from transmitting the virus. The illness is only transmitted through blood to blood contact and cannot be transmitted through saliva or other bodily fluids.

Those at risk of contracting the virus are people who have received blood transfusions/ products before 1991, those who have received medical/dental treatment in other countries where there are high incidences of Hepatitis C and poor infection control and former injecting drug users.

If you feel you have been at risk of infection you can be tested through your GP, Victoria Hospital Infectious Disease Department or Fife Addiction Service.

Tests can also be arranged by contacting one of the following services: UK Hepatitis C information line – 0870 242 2467; NHS Fife Blood Borne Virus clinic – 01592 643355 ext 8624.

World Hepatitis Day 2011 is coordinated by the World Hepatitis Alliance, a non-governmental organisation that represents hepatitis B and hepatitis C patient groups from around the world.

Electronic access to Martindale, Stockley and Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin

Martindale-The Complete Drug Reference and Stockley's Drug Interactions are no longer accessible through electronic books via the Knowledge Network . Stockley's Drug Interactions is still accessible through Medicines Complete. Martindale is now accessible via www.thomsonhc.com This does not affect access for community pharmacists to both Martindale and Stockley from Medicines Complete via the Community Pharmacy Scotland website.

Free access to the Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin is now available via The Knowledge Network or directly from the Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin website via the ATHENS logins.

If you require this newsletter in an alternative format please contact
Natalie Bate/ Fiona Forsyth on 01383 565375