

Pharmacy Contract Briefing

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FIFE PHARMACY 

Welcome to the 11th edition of the Community Pharmacy Contract Briefing. Our summer 2009 issue includes information on the new look Community Pharmacy website as well as updates on MAS, AMS and the Chronic Medication Service.

New Look for Community Pharmacy Website

The new revised Community Pharmacy website is now complete. With a major facelift, it has been designed as the central point for all information relating to the rollout of the Pharmacy contract. Not only has the new site been improved visually but is now much more user friendly.

The Core Services section, which contains information regarding the various services, has been updated and there is also a new addition to the site - an electronic version of ePharmacy News, where you can view current and previous editions of the newsletter in full or by clicking on the individual articles. There is also an updated information page giving details of all Pharmacy Champion and IM & T Facilitator details throughout Scotland. You can visit the website at

www.communitypharmacy.scot.nhs.uk. Please visit the Fife page regularly for information and updates at www.nhsfife.scot.nhs.uk/pharmacy.

Chronic Medication Service

As the final core element of the pharmacy contract, the Chronic Medication Service (CMS) is due to begin as a national service in the near future. Work has already begun on eCMS by both the GP and IT system suppliers.

Updated information on CMS can be found at www.communitypharmacy.scot.nhs.uk.

Please use the 999F5 Code

As you may be aware, there are three items under the Public Health Service which are being captured on the urgent supply forms CP (US). Traditionally data captured on these forms is linked

to the GP practice; however the three items under the Public Health Service (Nicotene, Levonorgestrel and Azithromycin), are not to go against GP Practices. To this end, ISD has set up a "dummy" code for each health board so that data can be captured and reported on.

The code for NHS Fife is 999F5. This should be applied to all relevant CP (US) forms with immediate effect. The code should be used by all community pharmacy colleagues, including locum and relief pharmacists.

Update on Minor Ailment Service

Evidence shows that the Minor Ailment Service (MAS) is working very well and has received a positive response from patients since its introduction in 2006.

Throughout Scotland, there are 650,042 patients registered for this service. In Fife, 45,424 registered for MAS with an average of 4,119 items dispensed per month.

Funding has been revised to take account of changes in patterns of activity and consideration is also being given to the impact of the abolition of prescription charges on the existing MAS arrangements.

New Prescription Stationery – Version 5

Version 5 Prescription Forms have now been introduced. The forms include the addition of new exemption check boxes: M – gets or who has partner who gets income related Employment and Support Allowance; and N – was prescribed free of charge medication to treat Tuberculosis.

These categories have been added and instead of in alphabetical order, are now

grouped next to other logically associated categories.

Other changes include the addition of information boxes requesting: name, date of birth and national insurance number of the recipient of benefit. These changes have been made to ensure that dependent young people who are still included in the family benefit assessment due to continued education/training, can claim remission based on their benefit received. The amendments will also help as a deterrent to fraud, enabling checks to take place for identification and eligibility of recipients.

Version 5 stationery is now available and should be used. All version 4 stationery will be processed so long as it has been written up before or up to 30 June 2009. Please return any remaining version 4 forms to your NHS Board to be destroyed.

Acute Medication Service (AMS) and ePharmacy Update

Good progress has been made with the new ePharmacy Programme. eAMS has now been rolled out nationally with 96.4% of GP practices and 98.9% of community pharmacies enabled. As at 18 May 2009, 627,110 GP10s had been scanned by Fife Pharmacies, the highest number in any one pharmacy being 36,809.

Overall, millions of prescriptions have now been sent electronically. The eAMS software has also resulted in efficient response times for requesting electronic messages (on average 2 seconds). All of this has been assisted by the regional Pharmacy Champions workshops which have focused on the roll out and use of eAMS specifically within community pharmacies.

This briefing is produced by the Pharmacy Services Department, NHS Fife. If you would like to make any suggestions to the content, please contact:

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