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**ALL COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS
IN NHS LANARKSHIRE
PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL LOCUMS AND
SUPPORT STAFF AS APPROPRIATE**

Date 22nd February 2011

Your Ref

Our Ref GL/AB

Enquiries to George Lindsay

Direct Line 01698 245058

Fax 01698 245091

Email George.Lindsay@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk

Dear Colleague,

CHRONIC MEDICATION SERVICE UPDATE NO 5

The next local NHS Education Scotland (NES) event on the Chronic Medication Service takes place on Tues 8th March at 7pm in Wishaw General Hospital. Over 50 pharmacists are attending but there is plenty more space and pharmacists can register via the NES website.

This event combines the “Care Planning For CMS” which was postponed from 7th Dec. due to snowfalls and the planned “Your CMS Questions Answered”.

The purpose of this letter is to encourage all pharmacists, but especially those who are attending the NES training night, to gain some further experience in providing CMS before the 8th March. I truly feel that practical experience in advance will allow us to have a much better discussion about the issues.

As a suggestion, I encourage pharmacists to gain experience in preparing care plans for 3 different scenarios.

E.g. Recording the reasons for agreeing/or not agreeing to provide a Monitored Dose System for a particular patient.

Pharmacists are reminded that reimbursement of MDS is only for patients formally assessed as needing this service and a formal CMS record is one way of keeping a record that that formal assessment has been carried out.

E.g. Specials

If any patient requires a “special” to be dispensed record the reasons for using a special rather than a licensed product.

E.g. Counselling patients receiving simvastatin.

Thoughts are being given to the development of national disease specific protocols, but prior to their publication it is reasonable for pharmacists to consider what the key counselling points are for some commonly used medicines. Simvastatin is an example and some of the key points are:

- Importance of taking this regularly – even although the patient does not have readily recognizable symptoms.

- Value in taking the medicine at night.
- Importance of the patient keeping in touch with the GP for regular blood test monitoring both to assess efficacy and safety. (For the avoidance of doubt CMS is not looking at taking over blood test monitoring from GPs).
- The importance of potential interactions with simvastatin. In particular with macrolide antibiotics or grapefruit juice. Part of the care plan could be that if the patient obtains all of their medicines from the same pharmacy then the opportunity for the pharmacist to identify any potential interactions is enhanced. Certainly it is reduced if the patient goes to several different pharmacies.
- The grapefruit interaction is not immediately obvious to patients – but it is important - so this is one of the counselling points worth putting in the care plan.
- Another key point is that any sign or symptom of unexplained muscle pain, tenderness or weakness is a cause of concern and potentially serious. Hence patients should report any such symptoms rapidly.

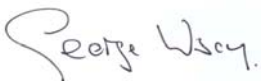
My personal view is that these examples illustrate 3 different but common place services provided by pharmacists for patients receiving long term medication. Remembering that CMS as a service aims to formalise and record traditional community pharmacy services, it seems like a reasonable place to start.

CMS is now gaining some momentum and until 31st Jan 115 local pharmacies had registered 3371 patients for CMS and 706 care records had been prepared. As the service develops we fully expect that a new range of practical, professional and clinical challenges will emerge. We have a duty within the Health Board to respond to these challenges with suitable training events. To enable us to prepare good and relevant training events I would be grateful if pharmacists could use the attached feedback form to identify and explain issues which they are finding challenging with the introduction of CMS.

The information should be sent to Anne Buchanan who will collate the findings.

This letter and feedback form will be posted on the NHS Lanarkshire section of www.communitypharmacy.scot.nhs.uk

Yours sincerely



**GEORGE LINDSAY
CHIEF PHARMACIST
NHS LANARKSHIRE PRIMARY CARE**

CC

Delia Bryce, Community Pharmacy IM&T Facilitator

Alexa Wall, NES Tutor NHS Lanarkshire for cascade to all involved in CMS training event

**IMPLEMENTATION OF CHRONIC MEDICATION SERVICE
FEEDBACK FORM**

Based upon your experience of Implementing CMS, please feedback any issues of concern or interest which you would like to see addressed at a local training events

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CONTRACTOR CODE

NAME OF PHARMACY

ADDRESS

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PHARMACIST NAME

SIGNATURE

DATE

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Form to be returned to:

Anne Buchanan

Secretary to Chief Pharmacist

NHS Lanarkshire Primary Care

Fax: 01698 245091

Anne.Buchanan@nhs.net