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MEET THE TEAM – Karen Smith



What is your current role? My current role is care at home pharmacy technician within the East HSCP. My role involves working alongside social work and healthcare staff and visiting patients in their own homes to assess their ability to manage medication independently.

How long have you worked in NHS A&A? I have worked for NHS Ayrshire and Arran for over 12 years now (wow where has the time gone)

What roles have you previously held? I first started my career as a health care assistant within the Scottish prison service back in 2008 but very quickly was thrown in the deep end of the pharmacy world and loved it. In 2011 I started working as a student pharmacy technician at Crosshouse hospital and then progressed to a pharmacy technician when I achieved my qualifications. I then progressed to my current position working within the care at home service 5 years ago.

What's the best bit of your job? The best part of my job is the patients (some are quite the character). I love meeting new people and hearing their stories. Although some patients with complex health issues such as dementia and Alzheimer's can be fiercely independent, they can create a bit of a challenge but I really enjoy this part of my job. If I can implement just one small change that makes a difference to that patients ability to manage medication and remain independent then I know I have done a good job.

What do you to relax outside of work? What is relaxing? I have just moved house so right now my free time is taken up with demolishing and decorating. I enjoy spending time with my family, husband and two teenage sons. Oh, and I cannot forget my fur baby Jesse the dog. I enjoy sitting outside with a glass of wine listening to a live band or two and making the most of time off.

NHS PHARMACY FIRST SCOTLAND

In April the number of recorded pharmacy first consultations dropped considerably to 2011 – this was the lowest number since July 2022. Please ensure you have a process in place to record all pharmacy first activity including where no product is supplied. This will ensure you are remunerated for this intervention and also improve the quality of the data relating to patients presenting to your pharmacy FIRST when requiring care in the community.

COMMUNICATIONS SUMMARY

- Tuesday 6th –
 - Email – **Urgent Saturday Summer Closures**
 - Circular – PCA2023(P23) Amendment to Drug Tariff
 - Class 3 Drug Alert – Medical Oxygen BP
- Thursday 8th –
 - Memo Glugagon 1mg powder for injection kit (GlucaGen) shortage
 - Email – Patient Accessing Controlled and Desirable Medication

GOOD NEWS STORY – LOGAN PHARMACY

Karen Smith, CAP tech (above) shared this good news story about Logan Pharmacy.....Well done and thank you to the team @ Logan!

On 07/06/23 at 1pm I received a distressed call from social work saying that a patient in East Ayrshire with complex health conditions and L3 medication had had to go and stay with an elderly family member in South Ayrshire because of an emergency situation. They could not get any carer company to manage the L3 and the elderly family member could not dispense from the original packs as too many and too confusing. Logan pharmacy (not patient's usual pharmacy) agreed that if GPCP provided dispense weekly prescriptions they would turn around a blister pack as soon as possible. I received a call from Logan pharmacy on 08/06/23 at 10:30 am to say that the blister was ready for collection, which was then delivered to South Ayrshire. Emma and her team showed sympathy and compassion for the patient's situation and turned it all round so quickly in conjunction with the pharmacotherapy team. Social work staff were very thankful for the help and support.

Key Messages

Epistatus 2.5mg Prefilled Syringe

Veriton Pharma are aware of a shortage of Epistatus Pre-filled Syringes which is anticipated to be resolved in the next 2 weeks. In order to mitigate the impact this may have on Patients, an extension to the shelf life of existing products has been reviewed. On assessment of stability data, the expiry date for the following products and batches is able to be extended by 2 months without adversely affecting the quality, safety or efficacy of the product. This statement is valid so long as the product in question meets the following parameters:

- It has been stored in the conditions stated on the outer pack, namely: "Store below 25°C. Do not refrigerate."
- The carer follows the instructions within the PIL (printed inside the outer carton) which states "The product must be discarded if the solution is not clear or if the solution contains particles or crystals."

Product	Batch	Stated Expiry Date	Extended Expiry Date
Epistatus PFS 2.5	072687	05/2023	07/2023
Epistatus PFS 5	072689	05/2023	07/2023
	073452	05/2023	07/2023
Epistatus PFS 7.5	072690	05/2023	07/2023

Oxcarbazepine Liquid 60mg/ml Shortage

We are aware of an ongoing shortage of Oxcarbazepine liquid. Recently a number of patients have been directed to our hospital dispensaries to obtain supplies of this medication. The hospital are also experiencing this shortage and do not have supplies available. We would like to remind all community pharmacy teams to ensure the shortage protocol is followed and that patients are directed back to primary care colleagues if supplies cannot be obtained through the community pharmacy network.

KEY COMMUNITY PHARMACY CONTACTS

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