

Weekly Script

No: 44



Pharmacy Services

CONTENTS

Meet the Team
Steven McKee

Good News Story
MS form for good
news

Communications
Summary: 4

This Week's Key
Messages:

Discontinuation of
Ralvo plasters

Drug Alert – Class 2
Recall Labetalol
200mg

Sexual Health Update

Meet the Team – Steven McKee

What are your current role?

Senior General Practice Pharmacy
Technician

How long have you worked in
Pharmacy and NHS A+A?

I have worked in pharmacy for 12 years.
4 years in community pharmacy, 4 years
in Hospital Pharmacy and the past 4
years in Primary Care.

What is the best bit of your job?

I like the variety of different tasks I'm involved in on a daily basis. I enjoy speaking with patients and making a positive impact on their understanding of their medication. Everyday presents a new learning opportunity which makes the job satisfying.

What do you do to relax outside of work?

I relax by spending time with my family and friends, exercising and watching any sport particularly football, Formula 1 and NFL.

Community Pharmacy Good News
Stories!

**Good News Stories – Now even easier!**

As you all know, we like to highlight Good News Stories in the Weekly Script to shine a spotlight on instances where one or more members of our Community Pharmacy teams have displayed high levels of patient care.

We appreciate that days are busy and such examples can come and go without particular focus. As a result, we've made the process of informing us of such occasions easier, by way of an MS form. Either scan the QR code, or follow the link [here](#) to provide some.

THIS WEEK'S COMMUNICATIONS SUMMARY

Monday 28th –

Tuesday 23rd –

Wednesday 24th –

Thursday 21st –

aa.cpteam: Class 4 Drug Alert – Update to Kent Pharma (Parasolve) Paracetamol 500mg Effervescent tablets

aa.cpteam: Class 2 Drug Alert – action in 48 hours – Tillomed Labs – Labetalol 200mg

aa.cpteam: For Action – New Bridging contraception PGD and associated forms

aa.cpteam: Class 2 Drug Alert UPDATE – action in 48 hours – Tillomed Labs – Labetalol 200mg

Discontinuation of Ralvo plasters

Ralvo (Lidocaine) plasters have been an area of focus for NHS Ayrshire and Arran. This item is classified as 'an item of low clinical effectiveness, where there is a lack of robust evidence of clinical effectiveness or there are significant safety concerns'. Lidocaine plasters are of low clinical value and are commonly used 'off label' for a number of pain conditions where their value is of even less certainty.

In 2008 the SMC made the following recommendation:

· Lidocaine 5% medicated plaster is accepted for restricted use within NHS Scotland for the treatment of neuropathic pain associated with previous herpes zoster infection (post-herpetic neuralgia).

There is only limited comparative data available for lidocaine plasters, so the comparative clinical effectiveness remains unclear. It is restricted to use in patients who are intolerant of first-line systemic therapies for post-herpetic neuralgia or where these therapies have been ineffective.

The discontinuation of Ralvo plasters is an opportunity to review the benefit and ongoing need for these plasters.

Actions for Community Pharmacy Staff:

- When dispensing Lidocaine 5% plasters, NHS Ayrshire & Arran encourage pharmacy contractors to dispense the more cost effective generic Lidocaine plasters as opposed to Versatis® branded plasters which are approximately 15% more expensive.
- Where patients present with a prescription for Ralvo, and the pharmacy is unable to obtain this item, we request that for this specific item, teams bypass the usual shortages protocol and instead direct patients back to the GP surgery for review. As discussed above, the review of efficacy for Lidocaine plasters is ongoing work for the pharmacy teams within surgeries.
- In the meantime, patients could be directed to the NHS A+A Pain Management Webpage [Pain Management Service - NHS Ayrshire & Arran](#) for information on the management of persistent pain.

Please see information from manufacturer: Lidocaine Grünenthal® 700 mg medicated plaster, is a replacement for Ralvo® (lidocaine 700mg medicated plaster). Lidocaine Grünenthal® does not differ to Ralvo® on quality, safety, or its licensed use. Ralvo® will continue to be available in pharmacies in the UK during 2024 until stocks run out. If you require any information please contact Grünenthal Medical info at 0800 2545540

Drug Alert Class 2 Recall – Labetolol 200mg tablets

You will have seen this week a Class 2 Patient, Pharmacy and Wholesaler Level Recall issued on 29/10/24 relating to Labetolol 200mg tablets and the potential inclusion of Vera-Til SR 240mg Tablets (Verapamil) within Labetolol 200mg packaging. We have reviewed dispensing data and send reminders to all pharmacies which the data shows have dispensed Labetolol 200mg tablets since May 2024, however we remind all contractors that it is their responsibility to follow the instructions within the recall irrespective of this.

Sexual Health Update

You will see from the communications above that a new Bridging contraception PGD has been released. A reminder that we do not need signed forms instead if you scan the barcode to confirm you have read and signed the PGD.

A summary of what is new is detailed below and also available in the attached documentation sent via email this week.

Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC)

- Change of remuneration arrangements so that from 1 November 2024 a fee of £30 is payable when an EHC consultation is undertaken instead of linked to supply. This means that where a consultation outcome is that the pharmacy provides Advice only or Referral to another healthcare provider, they may claim the consultation fee. Reimbursement will also be paid where a supply has been made.
- Update to the training that pharmacists must complete.
- Update to the resources section.
- Change to the Universal Claim Framework (UCF) options
- Note: no changes have been made to eligibility for the EHC service.

Bridging Contraception (BC)

- Change to eligibility from 1 November 2024 so that those who are not currently registered with a GP practice can access the service as long as they live in Scotland i.e. this is equivalent to the eligibility for NHS Pharmacy First Scotland.
- Update to the training that pharmacists must complete.
- Update to the resources section.
- Change to the Universal Claim Framework (UCF) options
- Note: there are no changes to the remuneration arrangements for Bridging Contraception.

Assessment form

Following user feedback, changes have been made to the assessment forms for both EHC and BC.

This has been uploaded to the A&A website.

Training and Webinar

Community pharmacy contractors should ensure that pharmacists have completed the e-learning modules referenced in the service specifications.

- Sexual Health for Community Pharmacy: Bridging Contraception (BC)

<https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/49300/pharmacy/cpd-resources/sexual-health-for-community-pharmacy-bridging-contraception-bc>

- Public protection modules :
 - 1) Adult support and protection (practice level 1 informed and level 2 skilled)
 - 2) Child protection (practice level 1 informed and level 2 skilled)

<https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/64316/public-protection>

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