Produced by Sue Wright on behalf of the NHS Rotherham Medicines Management Team Tel (01709) 302631 if further information required.

Rotherham Community Pharmacy Newsletter October 2010

Clinical Governance Leads Event

Reminder that this event is on 10 November 2010 at 7pm at Oak House. Attendance is compulsory to comply with contractual agreements.

Healthy Start Vitamins

When supplies of free Healthy Start Vitamins are exhausted (Pharmacy First Accredited Pharmacies only) please contact the Medicines Management Team on Rotherham 01709 302631 to obtain a further supply of free stock.

Emergency Hormonal Contraception Scheme - Little Black Books

This year's funding for the black books containing condoms and information cards as come to an end. Therefore, no more will be issued to Community Pharmacies for patients accessing the EHC Scheme.

Implanon ® is now Nexplanon ▼®

From the second or third week in October Nexplanon▼ will be available from wholesalers. Nexplanon is the same as Implanon in terms of the hormone dose, efficacy, side effects and duration of action. The only difference is the implant and insertion device which is more visible on X-ray and easier to insert.

Further information, including training, can be found on the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare website: http://www.ffprhc.org.uk/admin/uploads/CEUStatementNexplanon0910.pdf

You're Welcome' young people friendly quality criteria

It is important that Pharmacies take young people's needs into account. The You're Welcome quality criteria sets out principles to support health service providers to improve their services and be more young people friendly. The toolkit for pharmacies to complete to gain the accreditation is available at: http://yourewelcome.dh.gov.uk. For further details please contact Kaye Mann on 01709 302088 or email kaye.mann@rotherham.nhs.uk

Disposal of Unwanted Medicines Service

The August edition of the Community Pharmacy News (PSNC) included an article highlighting some recent changes to the requirements for registration of the exemption from the waste management licensing regulations. One of the three major changes reported in the article noted that: "There is no longer a prohibition on accepting waste from a nursing home or GP surgery". However, there have been no changes to the service specification for Essential Service 3—Disposal of unwanted drugs.
Please note that NHS Rotherham has not agreed to fund any such extension to the waste collection from pharmacies that includes this waste.

Dispensing Awareness—Picking Errors

Dispensing errors reported to the PCT are logged onto a system, which enables a useful analysis of the data.

Stock to shelf needs to be done correctly when unpacking orders. Pharmacists should consider separating stock with similar names, although this may lead to difficulties locating medicines. Importantly, stock should be correctly "faced" on the shelf, all packs neatly orientated, the name/strength clearly visible. Unfortunately, some generics manufacturers are guilty of poor pack design and colour choice, leading to an increased risk of error.

Referring to the near miss log would assist in identifying those medicines that are more likely to be picked in error. For this reason the log should provide an accurate record of near-misses to enable the contents of the log to be used as a tool to aid improvements in patient safety.

A robust checking process, which includes asking staff to check their own work before passing the prescription on for the final accuracy check will reduce the likelihood of dispensing errors. Although staff can develop their own checking process they should be encouraged to use a simple mnemonic, such as "HELP". This improves the check by making it more systematic.

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Drug Alert

Following the alert issued on Friday 27 August we can now confirm the death of a heroin user in Loughborough was as a result of using heroin contaminated with Anthrax.

Please ensure your service users are aware of the following harm reduction messages:

There is no safe route for consuming heroin (or other drugs) that may be contaminated with anthrax as there is a potential serious risk from inhaling or smoking the anthrax, as well as from injecting it.

Anthrax can be cured with antibiotics, if the medical treatment is started early.

It is therefore important to know what sorts of symptoms and signs to look for, so that there are **no delays in obtaining the necessary treatment.**

The symptoms and signs include: severe swelling or redness around a wound site, which may be painless; pain at a site where you have previously injected; an open sore or wound; pus collecting under the skin; or a more generalised and severe flu-like illness (with muscle aches, headache, tiredness and high fever).

If you have used heroin and suspect that you have any or all of these symptoms, especially if the infection seems different to others you may have had in the past - **seek medical attention as a matter or urgency, either from your GP or local Accident & Emergency Department.**

Drug users currently in drug treatment, should stop using heroin altogether. Heroin users not in drug treatment should stop using heroin if possible and talk to a doctor or someone at a drug service about starting on a prescribed alternative drug (such as methadone or buprenorphine) and/or other treatment options.

TACKLING DRUGS CHANGING LIVES

Safe Administration of Insulin (NPSA – Rapid Report 2010/013)

http://www.nrls.npsa.nhs.uk/alerts/?entryid45=74287

Errors in the administration of insulin by clinical staff are common. In certain cases they may be severe and can cause death. Two common errors have been identified:

• the inappropriate use of non-insulin (IV) syringes, which are marked in ml and not in insulin units;
• the use of abbreviations such as ‘U’ or ‘IU’ for units. When abbreviations are added to the intended dose, the dose may be misread, e.g. 10U is read as 100.

Action for Pharmacists

- If you receive prescriptions which are not written correctly please complete an IAF1 form and submit to NHS Rotherham
- Please ensure that the instructions on labels for any insulin doses are written in full i.e. 24 units