



Tablet Press

The prescribing newsletter for GPs, nurses and pharmacists
NHS Nene CCG and NHS Corby CCG

Issue 106

July 2015



- **MHRA safety update regarding SGLT2 inhibitors**

Sodium glucose co-transporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitors are licensed for use in adults with type 2 diabetes to improve glycaemic control. Serious and life-threatening cases of diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) have been reported in patients taking SGLT2 inhibitors (canagliflozin, dapagliflozin or empagliflozin). The MHRA advises clinicians to test for raised ketones in patients with acidosis symptoms, even if plasma glucose levels are near-normal. The full alert can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/sgl2-inhibitors-canagliflozin-dapagliflozin-empagliflozin-risk-of-diabetic-ketoacidosis>

- **National roll-out of Summary Care Record access for community pharmacists**

Following a successful proof of concept in which a number of Northamptonshire pharmacies were involved, NHS England has commissioned The Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) to support all community pharmacies in England to implement access to the SCR. A report assessing the effectiveness of the proof of concept found that SCR access in community pharmacies delivered benefits to patients, pharmacy and general practice, including:

- In 92% of encounters where SCR was accessed, the pharmacist avoided the need to signpost the patient to other NHS care settings.
- 85% of pharmacists surveyed agreed or strongly agreed that SCR reduced the need for them to contact the patient's GP.
- In 18% of encounters, the risk of a prescribing error was avoided.

<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/article/6476/Summary-Care-Record-rolled-out-to-community-pharmacists>

<http://systems.hscic.gov.uk/scr/pharmacy/compharmcs.pdf>

- **Schedule 2 and 3 Controlled Drugs and EPS**

Although legislation comes into force from 1st July 2015 allowing Schedule 2 and 3 CDs to be prescribed and dispensed using EPS, the implementation date has yet to be confirmed.

EPS prescriptions for CDs will need to satisfy the usual requirements including the need to express the total quantity in words and figures. The Health and Social Care Information Centre has issued all GP and community pharmacy system suppliers with the technical requirements to implement CD prescribing via EPS. All dispensing systems must be updated and fully deployed across all pharmacy sites, before it is possible to enable the new functionality to avoid the possible risk of a prescriber sending a prescription for a CD to a pharmacy which can't then dispense it.

Suppliers have been asked by HSCIC to consider when they will be able to implement the changes and until all suppliers provide this feedback, a decision cannot be made regarding implementation timescales.

<http://psnc.org.uk/our-news/update-schedule-23-controlled-drugs-and-eps/>

- **Temazepam**

As of 1st June 2015 prescriptions for temazepam must fully comply with the prescription writing requirements for Schedule 3 controlled drugs. This includes the following information -

- dose (NOT 'to be taken as directed')
- form of the medicine
- strength (where appropriate)
- total quantity of the preparation in both words and figures

Schedule 2 & 3 CD prescriptions must not be sent by fax. The treatment period is strongly recommended to be no more than 30 days and the prescriber must be able to clinically justify the quantity requested.

- **Ametop for paediatric blood tests**

A Northampton GP raised a concern that his practice is increasingly receiving requests from the Pathology department at NGH to provide a script for Ametop for children prior to their blood test. NGH have since confirmed that the Pathology department should provide this and the GP should not be asked to prescribe.

- **"NICE bites"**

The NICE bites on Irritable Bowel Syndrome (CG 183) is now available on Pathfinder.

<http://www.pathfinder-rf.northants.nhs.uk/nene/therapeutics/nice-bites/>

This edition is also available on PathfinderRF via the following link <http://www.pathfinder-rf.northants.nhs.uk/nene> and on the Nene CCG and Corby CCG websites

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