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Dear Alison

Re: Bipolar Disorder Guideline – Submission of evidence

Following our discussion last week I have attached a couple of references obtained from David Taylor Chief Pharmacist South London and Maudsley NHS Trust which you may not be aware of:

Taylor DM, Starkey K, Ginary S. Prescribing and monitoring of carbamazepine and valproate - a case note review. Psychiatric Bulletin 2000; 24: 174-177.

Butler JA, Taylor D. A survey of lithium monitoring and prescribing patterns. International Journal of Psychiatry in Clinical Practice 2000; 4: 135-138.

I have also listed the results of the search of the Society's database (RPS e-Pic) in relation to pharmacy and bipolar disorder and we have included references on monitoring lithium.

TI - Title: Bipolar disorder

AU - Author: Sherwood-V

SO - Source: Chemist-and-Druggist 2003;260:19-22 (Oct 4) (Full text Internet:-
<http://www.dotpharmacy.com/up1283.pdf>)

PT - Publication Type: Pharmacy-Update

AB - Abstract: Article on bipolar depression considers the disease and its treatment. Details are included on:- prevalence, symptoms, causes, diagnosis, treatment (drug and non-drug) and the pharmacist's role.

AN - Accession Number: 73678

TI - Title: Advantages of a pharmacist/nurse-led lithium clinic with on-the-spot testing

AU - Author: Morgan-P

SO - Source: International-Journal-of-Pharmacy-Practice 2003:11(Pharmacy Practice Research Suppl, Sept):R29

URL - Link To Full Text: http://www.pharmj.com/IJPP/bpc2003/ijpp_bpc2003_r29.pdf

AN - Accession Number: 91193

TI - Title: Lithium mystery

AU - Author: Allen-M

SO - Source: Chemist-and-Druggist 2003:260:17-19 (Aug 23)

PT - Publication Type: Pharmacy-Update

AB - Abstract: Case studies are described for two patients on lithium therapy. In the first case a patient taking lithium for a number of years suffered from an acute manic episode. The patient had stopped taking "extra" ibuprofen tablets which then affected her lithium levels. In the second case a patient prescribed bendrofluazide and lithium had his antihypertensive therapy swapped to atenolol following intervention by the pharmacist

AN - Accession Number: 73481

TI - Title: College of Mental Health Pharmacists/ Industrial Pharmacists Group

SO - Source: Pharmaceutical-Journal 2002:269:859-860 (Dec 14)

URL - Link To Full Text: http://www.pharmj.com/Editorial/20021214/forum/forum_cmhp.html

PT - Publication Type: Meetings

AB - Abstract: A call for the Royal Pharmaceutical Society to be proactive in the mental health arena was made at a joint meeting of the College of Mental Health Pharmacists and the Industrial Pharmacists Group (IPG) at the Society's headquarters. Topics discussed included:- National Service Framework for Mental Health; pharmacists better than nurses for prescribing role; gap between NICE guidance on prescribing atypical antipsychotics and practice; comparative studies on mood stabilisers are needed; cardiovascular mortality is higher in those who are severely mentally ill.

AN - Accession Number: 72891

TI - Title: Praise for Norfolk Trust pharmacy services

SO - Source: Pharmaceutical-Journal 2002:269:839 (Dec 14)

URL - Link To Full Text: <http://www.pharmj.com/Editorial/20021214/news/norfolk.html>

PT - Publication Type: News

AB - Abstract: The Commission for Health Improvement has highlighted pharmacy services at Norfolk Mental Health Care NHS Trust as an area of notable practice, despite finding that other areas of the trust need considerable improvement. They noted that a lithium audit carried out by the trust had led to quality improvements through the installation of a lithium database. As a result of the pharmacy's success, Stephen Bazire, pharmacy services director at the trust, has been given the responsibility of ensuring greater utilisation of the pharmacy's skills and services with the aim of improving medicines use throughout the trust.

AN - Accession Number: 72868

TI - Title: An analysis of off-licence prescribing in psychiatric medicine

AU - Author: Douglas-Hall-P; Fuller-A; Gill-Barnham-S

SO - Source: Pharmaceutical-Journal 2001:267(Dec 22/29):890-891 (www.pharmj.com)

PT - Publication Type: Original-Paper

AB - Abstract: The aim of the study was to assess the incidence of off-licence prescribing. A cross sectional survey of psychiatric prescription cards, concerning information relating to medicines prescribed, dosage and indication, was conducted. Details of the findings are provided. The authors conclude that the prevalence of off-licence prescribing was comparable to that found by a recent retrospective study. Although off-licence prescribing is a necessary part of clinical practice, the implications appear to be poorly appreciated by most practitioners and attention needs to be given to appropriate documentation.

AN - Accession Number: 84005

TI - Title: Pharmaceutical Care: (13) Mood Disorders - Bipolar conditions

AU - Author: Fraser-K; Martin-M; Hudson-S; Hunter-R

SO - Source: Pharmaceutical-Journal 2001:266(Jun 16):824-832 (www.pharmj.com)

AB - Abstract: In this, the last of three articles on mood disorders, the treatment of bipolar disorders is considered, under the headings of: clinical features; drug treatment and prophylaxis; evidence base and clinical guidelines; treatment of acute mania/hypomania; prophylaxis of bipolar disorder; and individual patient care. Details are provided on symptoms of mania and hypomania, therapeutic drug monitoring for lithium and monitoring of patients on lithium, and lithium preparations and their side effects and toxicity. Tables are provided on: initial strategy for first manic episode - choice of regimen; initial strategy for first manic episode - choice of mood stabiliser; evidence base for mood stabilisers in bipolar disorder;

pharmaceutical care in bipolar mood disorders; and summary of lithium drug interactions. Two case studies, together with pharmaceutical care plans are presented.

AN - Accession Number: 80351

TI - Title: Special Feature: Pharmaceutical care - (11) Mood disorders: implications for primary care

AU - Author: Fraser-K; Martin-M; Hunter-R; Hudson-S

SO - Source: Pharmaceutical-Journal 2001:266(Feb 24):259-262 (www.pharmj.com)

AB - Abstract: This article discusses the pharmaceutical care of mood disorders. Clinical pattern, classification and public health implications (National Service Framework, role for pharmacists) are discussed. Tables are provided on: clinical features of depressive disorders, diagnostic criteria for depression and classification of mood disorders. Factors associated with mood disorders; "profile of affective disorders in the population of a pharmacy serving 5,000 patients"; and depression rating scales are also covered. See Correction Source.

AN - Accession Number: 66887

TI - Title: Drug interactions: lithium and analgesics

AU - Author: Watson-GS

SO - Source: Pharmaceutical-Journal 1998:260(Apr 11):527

PT - Publication Type: Letter

AB - Abstract: The author expresses concerns over the availability of ibuprofen from supermarkets and garages with no information given to patients. In lithium patients there is concern over possible toxicity with co-administration of certain pain killers available over-the-counter.

AN - Accession Number: 45258

TI - Title: The monitoring of lithium therapy in different management settings

AU - Author: Nicol-MH; Kendle-KE; Krska-J

SO - Source: Pharmaceutical-Journal 1996: PPR Suppl Oct 12 1996:R13

AN - Accession Number: 30550

TI - Title: A pharmacist managed lithium clinic

AU - Author: Dean-J; Acomb-J

SO - Source: Hospital-Pharmacist 1995:2:150-52

AB - Abstract: Details are given of a pharmacist managed lithium clinic at Airedale NHS Trust. Attendance at the clinic has been associated with an increase in the number of serum lithium levels within the therapeutic range.

AN - Accession Number: 25349

TI - Title: Psychiatric drug leaflets for patients

SO - Source: Pharmaceutical-Journal 1995:255:397

PT - Publication Type: Products-and-Services

AB - Abstract: The United Kingdom Psychiatric Pharmacy Group has produced a set of generic information leaflets of medicines used in mental illness. There are leaflets on :- selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors; tricyclic antidepressants; carbamazepine; clozapine; antipsychotics; benzodiazepines; moclobemide; monoamine oxidase inhibitors and lithium.

AN - Accession Number: 24181

TI - Title: Lithium and the community pharmacist

AU - Author: Acomb-J; Dean-J

SO - Source: Pharmaceutical-Journal 1993:251:348-349

PT - Publication Type: Continuing-Education

AB - Abstract: The article considers the advice that pharmacists can give to patients receiving lithium therapy. A case study gives consideration to the purchase of OTC diuretics and pain killers, dietary advice to prevent weight gain and travel abroad. There is a discussion on :- other interactions between lithium and OTC products (including antacids, laxatives, urinary alkalinising agents); lithium side effects (divided into early onset effects and late onset effects); lithium toxicity; use in pregnancy and lithium preparations.

AN - Accession Number: 08139

TI - Title: UKCPA Spring Symposium

SO - Source: Pharmaceutical-Journal 1993:250:361

PT - Publication Type: Meetings

AB - Abstract: Pharmacists were urged to widen their horizons and consider current affairs with a broad view of the health care team. Blinkered approaches as seen in the responses to the Tomlinson report must be avoided and a less isolated approach is needed. Professional audit may make other health care team members aware of pharmacies value to society. Other topics covered were a pharmacy managed lithium clinic, a new medication error reporting scheme, pharmaceutical care standards as a baseline for clinical audit (table of standards given) and a guide to chemotherapy for parents of children being treated for brain tumours.

AN - Accession Number: 02872

TI - TITLE: Current treatment issues in bipolar disorder

AU - AUTHOR(S): Marken-PA
AD - ADDRESS OF AUTHOR: Univ. of Missouri, Kansas City, MO, USA
SO - SOURCE (BIBLIOGRAPHIC CITATION): Drug-Top (Drug-Topics); 1997; 141(Apr Suppl); 18s-20s, 22s (Journal kept by the library)
PY - PUBLICATION YEAR: 1997
CP - COUNTRY OF PUBLICATION: USA
AB - ABSTRACT: Principles of treatment and pharmacotherapy of bipolar disorder with lithium, valproic acid (valproate), and carbamazepine, including dosing, monitoring, toxicity, drug interactions, and the pharmacist's role, are presented.
AN - ACCESSION NUMBER: 35-03483

TI - Title: Lithium
AU - Author: Greener-M
SO - Source: Independent-Community-Pharmacist 2003:Nov:22 [Although article is in a pharmacy journal it is not describing the pharmacist's role or medicines management issues]
AB - Abstract: Article on the use of lithium. The mechanism of action in bipolar disorder is considered - pharmacologists still are not sure how, on a molecular level, lithium stabilises mood. Recent research raises the prospect that lithium might also be effective in conditions as diverse as Alzheimer's disease, Huntington's chorea, schizophrenia and even diabetes.
AN - Accession Number: 73959

TI - Title: Clinical focus: lithium
AU - Author: Greener-M
SO - Source: Pharmacy-Magazine 2003:IX(7):24 (July) [Although article is in a pharmacy journal it is not describing the pharmacist's role or medicines management issues]
AB - Abstract: Article on the role of lithium in bipolar disease and as a promising new treatment for Alzheimer's disease.
AN - Accession Number: 73624

A broader concept of the pharmacist's role in psychiatry is discussed in the following reference (no specific mention of bipolar disorder):-

TI - Title: Community care: pharmaceutical care for people with enduring mental health needs
AU - Author: United Kingdom Psychiatric Pharmacy Group
SO - Source: Pharmaceutical-Journal 1995:255:501-03
PT - Publication Type: General-Article

AB - Abstract: This is a shortened version of a consensus statement from the United Kingdom Psychiatric Pharmacy Group on the pharmaceutical needs of people with long-term mental health problems.

NT - Supplementary Data/Notes: Full statement is available from Dr Branford, Consultant Pharmacist, The Mansion House, Glen Frith Division, Fosse NHS Trust, Groby Road, Leicester LE3 9QF

AN - Accession Number: 24652

I hope this may be of use

Best wishes

Sue Kilby

Head of Practice