

Mid Essex Primary Care Trust
Kestrel House
Hedgerows Business Park
Colchester Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 5PF
Phone: 01245 398730
Fax: 01245 398710
E-mail: caroline.saul@midessexpct.nhs.uk

www.midessexpct.nhs.uk

Contact details:

Paula Wilkinson (Chief Pharmacist, Chelmsford & Braintree districts)	01245 398727
Margaret Cutler (Head of Medicines Management / Chief Pharmacist, Maldon district)	01621 727324
Sarah Westall (Community Pharmacy Contract Manager, Maldon district)	01621 727321
Caroline Saul (Community Pharmacy Facilitator, Chelmsford & Braintree districts)	01245 398730

For information on Trust services please contact a PALS co-ordinator:

Cheryle Mack	01245 243485 (Chelmsford district)
Diana Still	01376 333528 (Braintree district)
Pat Clark	01621 727298 (Maldon district)

Christmas & New Year

There are less than 90 days to go until the Christmas / New Year holiday period so if you have not already informed the PCT of any changes you will be expected to open during your normal business hours over the holiday.

Exceptions to this are the official Bank Holidays of December 25th, December 26th and January 1st when you are not expected to open unless you have notified us that you plan to do so.

An out of hours service will be commissioned on these days—details will be circulated nearer the time.

Health Promotion Resources

Have a look at the newly launched webpage for the Health Promotion Resource Centre

<http://www.essexmsresourcecentre.nhs.uk>

and order online. Leaflets posters teaching aids and much more are available to aid professional staff in the delivery of public health and health improvement activities. All users are required to complete a registration form. If you have an email address you can register online or call Val Williams 01621 727299.

Modified Release Formulations

Dr David Wright, from the University of East Anglia School of Pharmacy, has recently highlighted the problems associated with crushing tablets to make them easier to swallow.

This is something to consider during MURs and when in discussion with any nursing homes that you supply.

The BNF caution statement is 'swallowed whole, not chewed' and patients may not realise that this means they should not crush the tablets either.

We have been asked about this by the Speech Therapists and have suggested that they tell people to ask local pharmacists for advice.

Volume 1, Issue 1

October 2006

Community Pharmacy Newsletter

Mid Essex Primary Care Trust

Oxygen Contractors—decommissioning of headsets

Agreement has been reached on the scheme for decommissioning of headsets held by community pharmacists. The details are in Part X of the Drug Tariff.

The scheme covers authorised headsets purchased by the contractor for use by patients using the cylinder service that were in useable condition at the time the pharmacy was providing that service.

Oxygen contractors need to complete a form which can be downloaded from the Oxygen section of the Prescription Pricing Division of the BSA website (<http://www.epact.ppa.nhs.uk/>)

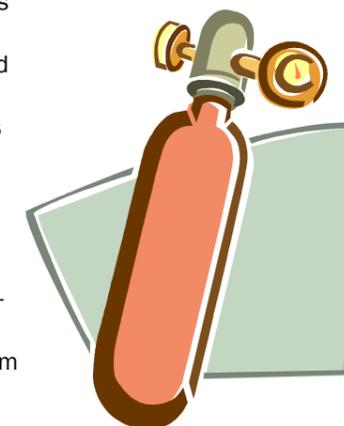
Completed forms must be sent to Margaret Cutler (Maldon district) or Caroline Saul (Braintree & Chelmsford districts) by the end of December.

The PCT cannot authorise payment on any forms that arrive after the end of December, and contractors are advised to submit forms in good time so that any queries can be sorted out before the deadline.

The PCT will make appropriate checks on the validity of the claim and then authorise

payment.

The decommissioning fee will not be calculated until the number of claims is known, and no payment will be made until after the closing date for claims.



Headset decommissioning

- Details of the headset decommissioning scheme are included in the Drug Tariff
- Contractors must submit their claim by the end of December - the PCT cannot entertain late claims
- The final fee will be calculated once the number of claims is known

Inside this issue:

Out of Hours Medical Care Provider	2
Green Bag Scheme	2
Essential Service 4: Healthy Lifestyles	3
Essential Service 8: Child Protection	3
Christmas & New Year	4
Health Promotion Resources	4
Pharmacy Advisory Group	4

How can we get in touch with you?

We can send our communications through the post, by fax or as e-mail attachments. Which would you prefer? E-mail is usually the quickest and cheapest method for us, but you may prefer another method.

In this newsletter you will find

a form which you can return to us by post or fax to let us know how you would prefer to receive information from the prescribing team in the future.

We will also pass the information on to other PCT departments although they may already have established meth-

ods of communication.

The kind of information that we send out includes newsletters, information on Enhanced Services, communication on contract monitoring visits, training course details, etc.

Out of Hours Medical Care Provider



The current contract with Essex Ambulance for out of hours care is coming to an end, and from November 1st this service will be provided by Primecare.

Primecare will operate from a base in Waterhouse Lane, Chelmsford, and initially one patient care centre at Broomfield Hospital. The telephone number, which will be manned at all times, is 0845 6413227.

Patients access the service by calling their GP practice and will be transferred to NHS direct (eventually Primecare will

take over this service too). Emergency calls will be transferred to 999, and those requiring information only will be dealt with by NHSd. Other callers will be passed on to Primecare and offered telephone advice, an appointment at the base in Chelmsford or a home visit as appropriate.

Doctors will carry prescription pads and are advised to issue prescriptions where possible. However they do carry a bag consistent with the national OOH formulary and will supply

these when there is an immediate need.

Primecare offer advice to their doctors on prescription writing (use of capital letters, generic prescribing, including all dosage details etc). If you find that you have difficulties in reading or dispensing Primecare prescriptions, please let the PCT know once you have resolved the immediate problem, so that we can collate any feedback and pass it on to the branch manager.

Green Bag Scheme



Green bags are specially printed self sealing plastic bags, available in two sizes, for patients to use to bring medicines into hospital.

Ideally patients should keep their medicines in a green bag at all times. In this way a green bag can be picked up by either the patient or carer for elective admission, or by ambulance staff or carer for an emergency admission.

The bags are held in a range of locations including GP surgeries, hospital clinics, care homes and ambulances.

If you know of patients who are going into hospital please encourage them to obtain and use one of these bags.

If you would like to hold a small stock of bags to distribute to your customers, please contact the PCT.

We will be promoting the use of the bags during 'Ask About Medicines Week' from November 6th.

Pharmacy Advisory Group



The aim of the Pharmacy Advisory Group is to work collaboratively across mid Essex PCT to produce an effective pharmacy commissioning strategy in line with Business Plans and Pharmacy Needs Assessments and to influence the appropriate Practice Based Commissioning groups.

The group meets bi-monthly and the next meeting is on

Tuesday 7th November at 10.00 – 12.00 at Kestrel House, Chelmsford.

Any community pharmacist working in the Mid Essex PCT area is welcome to attend these meetings. It is recognised that attendance is difficult at this working group which meets during business hours, so the LPC representatives present will ensure that

their local members have the chance to input to this group via local forum meetings.

If you plan to attend the meeting please let Carole Dighton know by Friday 3rd November (01245 398728, fax 01245 398710, carole.dighton@midessexpct.nhs.uk).

Essential Service 4: Healthy Lifestyles

One requirement of this Essential Service is that your pharmacy participates in 6 PCT organised campaigns per year.

For the contract monitoring process, you will need evidence that you participated in all 6 campaigns, so make sure that you keep a record of the dates and what you did.

Details of the first three campaigns for this year are:

1) FLU AWARENESS

October–November 2006

If you have not already re-

ceived your flu poster it will be with you soon. Please display it for four weeks from the date of receipt. There is no requirement for active engagement with customers but the poster may prompt questions.

2) ALCOHOL AWARENESS

December 2006

As December is a busy month all you need to do is display a poster—remember to keep a record.

3) PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

January 2007

In addition to displaying posters you will be asked to give out leaflets and counsel or signpost customers as appropriate. You will need to keep records of this. You may want to use the campaign to promote the sales of, for example, slimming products.



Essential Service 8: Child Protection

Working Together to Safeguard Children is the key national guidance document on how agencies should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The statutory implementation date for most of the new Working Together is 1st October 2006. It introduces changes to practice and includes information on:

- Reasons for the changes in safeguarding policy and practice since 1999
- The roles and responsibilities of each organisation
- Details of the responsibilities of Local Safeguarding Children Boards
- Statutory guidance on managing individual cases
- Procedures for serious case reviews
- Details of the new child death review process

What's new in Essex?

The publication of Working Together has prompted the Essex Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB) to work closely with the Southend and Thurrock Boards in reviewing all their multi-agency child protection procedures (the Blue

Book). The aim of this work was to produce a new and up to date document that will cover the whole of Essex, thus supporting the provision of a consistent service for children and families across the County.

So what will this mean for my organisation?

As from Monday 2nd October all organisations should be working to the new SET Child Protection Procedures which **REPLACE** the 'Blue Book' (you will have received a letter describing the action you need to take)

These can be found online on www.escb.co.uk, with a limited number of printed copies being available to those in certain roles.

A pocket sized extract from the procedures will be widely available and this will be circulated by ESCB member organisations shortly. Other organisations that are currently registered as having a copy of the Blue Book will be contacted in due course.

What will be different?

The SET Child Protection Procedures emphasise the shared obligations and expectations of staff, carers and volunteers. It is essentially a reference document and it is accepted that staff will refer to specific sections and their pocket books rather than read it cover to cover.

The primary purpose of the document is to provide explicit instructions for all relevant agencies in work associated with the "Staying Safe" outcome of the Every Child Matters framework for children (www.everychildmatters.gov.uk).

Information in the Procedures includes;

- Details on roles and responsibilities
- Information sharing and confidentiality
- Guidance on recognising and responding to abuse and neglect
- Recognising and responding to areas of increased vulnerability (such as domestic violence and children living away from home)
- Referral and assessment
- Child protection enquiries

and child protection conferences

- Additional procedures for specific situations (such as hospital pre discharge arrangements and missing children or families)
- Allegations against people who work with children
- Risk management of known offenders

Further information

To find out more please see the ESCB website www.escb.co.uk. Alternatively contact your organisation's representative on the ESCB or a member of the ESCB by email to escb@essexcc.gov.uk.

