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Newsletter

20th October 2023

Week 41

This newsletter contains useful information for community pharmacy owners and staff in Kent

Community Pharmacy visits

I was delighted with the Pharmacy visits last week with **Tase Oputu** Chair Associate Director of Medicines Optimisation, High-Cost Drugs at K&M ICB and Chair, English Pharmacy Board, Royal Pharmaceutical Society and **Naomi Finch** Associate Director- Lead for Community Pharmacy Integration Medicines Optimisation at K&M ICB.

Community Pharmacy is an integral part of the four pillars of primary care alongside our General Practice, Dentistry and Optometry colleagues.

A fully integrated system of working will ensure we reduce the burden on secondary care for the benefit of people living in our communities.

Community Pharmacy is the lifeblood of our communities. We need to acknowledge the vital role they play and actively work to keep them open.

Thank you Tase and Naomi for taking time to visit some of our pharmacies.



From the right: Tami (Pharmacy Manager Paydens Larkfield), Naomi, Mark and Tase



From the right: Naomi, Tase Amish (Owner Hodgsons Pharmacy and Chair Kent LPC) and Mark



From the right: Tase, Anil (General Manager Boots Bluewater), Jonathan (Pharmacy Technician), Mark, Naomi and Sam (Regional Pharmacy Manager)



From the right: Tase, Anisa (Pharmacy Manager Paydens Kingsmill), Naomi and Mark



World Pharmacy Technician Day Kent and Medway Celebration Webinar
(New!)

The 17th of October was World Pharmacy Technician Day. This was a great day to recognise the important work our Pharmacy Technicians do for the benefit of patients in our communities.

Click [here](#) for a link to a great video done by Jonathan Bell Dispensing Technician at Boots Bluewater. Brilliant video!

"Patients are at the heart of everything we do" he said.



Generic Apixaban (New!)

This is to inform you that the ICB will be undertaking a brand to generic switch

(Eliquis to Apixaban) in the next couple of weeks.

We understand that many pharmacy contractors have the generics available on their shelves and can also obtain them easily from wholesalers. However, there may be a few contractors that still hold stock of the brand – Eliquis.

To minimise the impact of this switch on the community pharmacies, this information is shared to allow pharmacy contractors time to use up their Eliquis stock and order in generic Apixaban.



New Lateral Flow Device Advanced service launches in November (New!)

This new advanced service, which is funded outside of the CPCF global sum, will allow eligible patients who have [risk factors for progression to severe COVID-19](#) to obtain LFD test kits from participating community pharmacies.

[Click here for more details](#)

The GOV.UK logo, featuring a white crown icon to the left of the text "GOV.UK" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, all set against a black rectangular background.

Dispensing of Valproate-containing medicines (New!)

Changes to the Human Medicines Regulations 2023 came into effect on the 11th of October which provides new rules requiring pharmacists to dispense all licensed medicines containing valproate in the manufacturer's original full pack.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) published [new guidance for dispensers](#) to support this change.



NHS Kent & Medway DPP Webinar Series - Demystifying the role of the Designated Prescribing Practitioner (New!)

Thinking about becoming a DPP or about to start the role? Are you an active prescriber? Join us for a series of webinars to learn more about the role:

Webinar 2 - Teaching & Training Skills, Thursday 2nd November, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM.

Register [here](#).

Webinar 3 - Meeting the DPP demand, Wednesday 8th November, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM. Register [here](#).

Please email kmicb.pharmacyworkforce@nhs.net if you have any queries.

Did you miss Webinar 1: The DPP Competency Framework Wednesday. Access the recording [here](#).



ADHD National Supply Disruption (update)

On 27 September a safety critical and complex [National Patient Safety Alert](#) was issued warning of anticipated shortages over the coming months for the following attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) medicines:

Methylphenidate:

- Equasym XL® 10mg, 20mg and 30mg capsules
- Xaggitin XL® 18mg and 36mg prolonged-release tablets
- Concerta XL® 54mg prolonged-release tablets
- Xenidate XL® 27mg prolonged-release tablets

Lisdexamfetamine:

- Elvanse® 20mg, 30mg, 40mg, 50mg, 60mg and 70mg capsules
- Elvanse® Adult 30mg, 50mg, and 70mg capsules

Guanfacine:

- Intuniv® 1mg, 2mg, 3mg and 4mg prolonged-release tablets

There is also a current shortage of certain [atomoxetine capsules and oral](#) solution.

Attached [here](#) are some FAQs that may help.

NHS Kent and Medway has set up a non-clinical information line for patients to

provide more information on the supply disruption: 01634 335095 option 3 then option 3, ADHD medicine shortages.



Recruitment of Trainee Pharmacists for 2025/26 via Oriel – Introduction to the process and support sessions (New!)

For the 2025/26 foundation training programme, all training sites will be required to recruit their trainee pharmacist(s) via the National Recruitment Scheme. This is managed using the UK wide online portal called Oriel. We are contacting you now because the national recruitment cycle for trainee pharmacists starting their foundation training in 2025 begins in January 2024 and closes in March 2024.

The 2025/26 foundation training programme will see also the introduction of the requirement that all training sites must be able to provide access to a Designated Prescribing Practitioner (DPP) and a prescribing learning environment. More information about these changes is available [here](#).

To support you in preparation for 2025/26 foundation training, the NHS England WT&E South East pharmacy team are hosting three online webinars in November 2023 to discuss what this means for you as employers. The focus of these webinars will be on the recruitment of trainees via the Oriel National Recruitment Scheme. These webinars will be followed up by **support sessions**

throughout January and February 2024, when the window for employers to enter their programme into Oriel is open.

Whilst the webinars will be predominantly aimed at the community pharmacy sector, we will welcome employers from all sectors to join us.

The dates of the initial online webinars and links to register are:

Wednesday 1st November 7.30pm – 8.30pm.

Monday 13th November 12.30pm – 1.30pm.

Thursday 23rd November 7.30pm – 8.30pm.

For those unable to attend, a recording of the content presented at the webinars will be made available, accompanied by a FAQ document. Please note, the same content will be presented at all three webinars.



VIRTUAL
OUTCOMES

Online Training for
Community Pharmacy Teams

SGLT2 Inhibitors - To Support NMS.

Now Live and FREE for ALL to view.

See [here](#) for a full list of courses.

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