



Tablet Press

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

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➤ Patient Safety Alert - Risk of severe harm due to withdrawing insulin from pen devices

The National Reporting and Learning System has received a number of incident reports involving patients having received insulin extracted from a pen cartridges via a syringe. In response a Patient Safety Alert bulletin has been produced and this states "that extracting insulin from pen devices or cartridges is dangerous and should not happen".
https://improvement.nhs.uk/uploads/documents/Patient_Safety_Alert_-_Withdrawing_insulin_from_pen_devices.pdf



➤ Recording "non-practice" medications (e.g. secondary care) on GP clinical systems

It is important that "non-practice" medicines are recorded by GP practices but in such a way that prevents a script being inadvertently issued. This is to ensure that information on other medications the patient is taking is available when making clinical decisions, avoiding interactions, providing a drug history and recognising adverse events associated with the non-practice medication and taking appropriate action. Guidance on recording "non-practice" medication on each of the clinical systems is available on Pathfinder at <http://nww.pathfinder-rf.northants.nhs.uk/media/3540452/guidance-on-recording-non-practice-medication-november-2016.pdf>
Following this guidance will mean that drug interactions with the "non-practice" prescribed medication will be flagged by the GP system and these medicines will be visible if a Medication Summary is printed off the Summary Care Record.

➤ Lactose intolerance

A systematic review found that, for people with lactose intolerance and malabsorption, symptoms become more prominent with doses above 18g. As the dose of lactose in most pharmaceutical products seldom exceeds 2g/day, it is unlikely that severe gastrointestinal symptoms can be attributed to the lactose in a conventional oral solid-dosage form. The British National Formulary also advises that the lactose content in most medicines is too small to cause problems in most lactose-intolerant patients. However, in people with severe lactose intolerance, lactose content should be determined before prescribing.

➤ Inhaler Device patient support materials

PrescQIPP have produced a suite of support materials for patients using inhalers. This includes inhaler technique videos and patient information leaflets in A4 or foldable A5. Clinicians in Northamptonshire can access these materials by signing up for an account and specifying Nene CCG for the organisation name
<https://www.prescqipp.info/register/registers> Examples of the type of materials that are available can be viewed, without registering, via the following link <https://www.prescqipp.info/respiratory#inhaler-technique-assessment-videos-and-leaflets>

➤ Flu – various updates

- The **first batch of Fluenz Tetra®** [live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV)] supplied for the 2016-17 children's flu vaccination programme **will expire on 13 December 2016. Please check expiry dates.**
- Two doses of flu vaccine should **only** be administered to **at-risk** children under 9 years who have not received flu vaccine before. Whilst the patient information leaflet provided with LAIV states that children should be given two doses of the vaccine if they have never had flu vaccine before, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) recommended that healthy children should only be offered a single dose of LAIV each year as the additional protection provided is modest.
- School based providers are obliged to offer 'second opportunity' immunisation sessions to children who miss influenza immunisation at schools. GPs should not usually immunise children in school years 1, 2 and 3.
- Flu vaccine for pregnant women under the age of 18 years old. Pregnant women less than 18 years old should be offered the inactivated flu vaccine. Although there is no evidence of risk in pregnancy from LAIV, inactivated influenza vaccines are preferred for those who are pregnant. Testing LAIV-eligible girls for pregnancy or advising avoidance of pregnancy in those who have been recently vaccinated with LAIV is not necessary. The Community Pharmacy influenza immunisation service can only vaccinate those aged 18 years and above using inactivated influenza vaccine.



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



This edition is also available on PathfinderRF via the following link
<http://nww.pathfinder-rf.northants.nhs.uk/nene>

Disclaimer

Information in this newsletter is believed to be accurate and true. NHS Nene CCG and NHS Corby CCG employees accept no liability for loss of any nature, to persons, organisations or institutions that may arise as a result of any errors or omissions.

☎ 01604 651359