

Library Current Awareness Bulletin: Pharmacy – August 2020

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Articles can be accessed from the links provided. An OpenAthens account may be required to access some of the articles. [Register for OpenAthens](#) – use your Airedale email address when registering.



Alerts

Alerts and Recalls for Drugs and Medical Devices (GOV.UK)

[View the July and August Alerts](#)

Guidance

[MHRA regulatory flexibilities resulting from coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency
August 2020

[The MHRA are working closely with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and other healthcare partners and stakeholders to rapidly identify where flexibilities in the regulation of medicines and medical devices may be possible. This is with a view to supporting the healthcare products supply chain and wider response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in the UK.]

[NICE Guidance and Advice List – July and August Updates](#)

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

News

[BBC News articles on the pharmaceutical industry](#)

[Articles published by BBC News on the pharmaceutical industry are collected here.]

[COVID-19 – Characterisation of the paediatric disease and evolving therapeutic options](#)

Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine Blog

Sankarasubramanian Rajaram, Sue Tansey et al

August 2020

["This article, prepared by members of the FPM Paediatrics and Other Vulnerable Populations Expert Group, examines the characteristics of [COVID-19] in children, its social impact, and the treatment and vaccine options under development for use in this population."]

[Interim Foundation Pharmacist programme launched by HEE](#)

National Health Executive

August 2020

["Health Education England (HEE) has launched its new education and training programme to support the 2019/20 cohort of pre-registration pharmacists. The Interim Foundation Pharmacist programme (IFPP) will be a twelve month course starting from September 2020."]

[New guide on supply of stimulant laxatives](#)

Royal Pharmaceutical Society

August 2020

["The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has introduced new regulatory measures which apply to all GSL and P stimulant laxatives of senna and sennosides (as calcium salts), bisacodyl and sodium picosulfate."]

[RPS responds to proposed changes to education and training for pharmacists](#)

Royal Pharmaceutical Society

July 2020

["The RPS has been discussing learning from the pandemic, the urgent need for change to training and education of pharmacists with General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) and a range of other stakeholders from across pharmacy." Here they set out their position on the proposed changes.]

[Update: reforms to initial education and training of pharmacists](#)

General Pharmaceutical Council

July 2020

["The UK Chief Pharmaceutical Officers, the General Pharmaceutical Council and the Pharmaceutical Society NI have written a joint letter to provide an update on the major reforms to the initial education and training of pharmacists that are being taken forward across the United Kingdom." A link to the full letter is provided.]

[Wright Review next steps](#)

National Pharmacy Association

August 2020

[A link is provided to a recording of a webinar the PSNC held on 10th August concerning the Wright Review. The NPA will be submitting a written response to the PSNC regarding the four questions that have been issued for consultation and are encouraging responses from independent community pharmacy owners.]

Community Pharmacy

[A national model of remote care for assessing and providing opioid agonist treatment during the COVID-19 pandemic: a report](#)

Crowley, D. and Delargy, I.

Harm Reduction Journal, vol. 17(1)

July 2020

["Increasing access to safe and effective opioid agonist treatment (OAT) and other harm reduction services during this pandemic is critical to reduce risk. In response to COVID-19, healthcare is increasingly being delivered by telephone and video consultation, and this report describes the development of a national model of remote care to eliminate waiting lists and increase access to OAT in Ireland."]

[Evaluating a potential role for community pharmacists in post-bariatric patient nutritional support](#)

Graham, Y.N.H. et al

Clinical Obesity, vol. 10(4)

August 2020

[This study aimed to explore a potential role for community pharmacists in the provision of post-bariatric surgical nutrient support. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews, face to face (n = 14) and by telephone (n = 11) and were facilitated via the use of a topic guide – a list of 10 questions. Analysis of the data identified four core themes: 1. Lack of patient engagement and compliance, 2. Perceived ambiguity in bariatric patient care pathways in community settings, 3. Perceptions of limited intraprofessional communication between care settings, 4. Embracing innovation in post-bariatric patient support.

[Influence of commissioned provider type and deprivation score on uptake of the childhood flu immunization](#)

Christensen, H. et al

Journal of Public Health, vol. 42(3) pp. 618-624

August 2020

["Data from the South West of England (2015–16 season) were analysed using multilevel logistic regression to assess variation in vaccine uptake by type of commissioned provider, allowing for clustering of children within delivery sites."]

[The role of community pharmacists and their position in the delivery of diabetes care: an update for medical professionals](#)

Brewster, S. et al

Postgraduate Medical Journal, vol. 96(1138) pp. 473-479

August 2020

["This review highlights that community pharmacists are accessible, experts in medicine management, trusted by the public and able to achieve financial savings. They are poorly integrated into existing healthcare models, and commissioning arrangements can be poorly perceived by the public and those working in primary care. Community pharmacy interventions in type 2 diabetes have similar, if not greater effects compared to those delivered by other healthcare professionals. It was concluded that community pharmacy interventions in diabetes are feasible, acceptable and deliver improved health outcomes."]

[Views and experiences of community pharmacy team members on antimicrobial stewardship activities in Scotland: a qualitative study](#)

Tonna, A.P. et al

International Journal of Clinical Pharmacy

August 2020

[This study aimed to explore views and experiences of community pharmacy teams across Scotland on antimicrobial stewardship, activities related to European Antibiotic Awareness Day, and a self-help guide to treating infection.]

Hospital Pharmacy

[An evaluation of continuous subcutaneous infusions across seven NHS acute hospitals: is there potential for 48-hour infusions?](#)

Baker, J. et al

BMC Palliative Care, vol. 19(1)

July 2020

["Continuous subcutaneous infusions (CSCIs) are commonly used in the United Kingdom as a way of administering medication to patients requiring symptom control when the oral route is compromised. These infusions are typically administered over 24 h due to currently available safety data. The ability to deliver prescribed medication by CSCI over 48 h may have numerous benefits in both patient care and health service resource utilisation. This service evaluation aims to identify the frequency at which CSCI prescriptions are altered at NHS Acute Hospitals."]

[Mechanisms affecting the implementation of a national antimicrobial stewardship programme: multi-professional perspectives explained using normalisation process theory](#)

Currie, K. et al

Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control, vol. 9(1)

July 2020

["This study sought to explain mechanisms affecting the implementation of a national antimicrobial stewardship programme, from multi-professional perspectives. Data collection involved in-depth qualitative telephone interviews with 27 implementation lead clinicians from 14/15 Scottish Health Boards and 15 focus groups with doctors, nurses and clinical pharmacists (n = 72) from five Health Boards, purposively selected for reported prescribing variation."]

[Occupational exposure to antineoplastic drugs in hospital environments: potential risk associated with contact with cyclophosphamide – and ifosfamide – contaminated surfaces](#)

Medycyna Pracy

July 2020

["Cyclophosphamide (CP) and ifosfamide (IP) contaminations have been detected in hospital environments. This study was conducted to determine if there was any contamination in the spaces (floors and door handles) between the hospital exit and the antineoplastic drugs (ADs) preparation and administration units. At the same time, the authors proposed a new automation of the analytical procedure to considerably decrease the time needed for sample preparation and analysis."]

[Paradigm shift of drug information centers during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Khawwaja, A.P. et al

Drugs and Therapy Perspectives, vol. 36(9) pp. 389-395

September 2020

["Accurate information on [COVID-19], its prevention and treatment can be disseminated through drug information centers (DICs). DICs are usually staffed by pharmacists and/or clinical pharmacists/pharmacologists. DICs are a reliable source of current and unbiased information on COVID-19 and its associated complications, including management options for healthcare professionals and the public. In addition to health and drug information, pharmacists working in the DICs can be involved in the management of the patients' health by providing information on home care and safety, medication management of patients with chronic comorbid illnesses, and psychological advice. This article explores the possible additional roles DICs can play, besides providing drug information within the hospital or in the community."]

[Practice of prescription review mode based on data mining in hospital](#)

Xu, F. et al

Annals of Translational Medicine, vol. 8(14)

July 2020

["A hospital pharmacy management analysis and decision system was established based on the data of the hospital information system, requirement of pharmacy management and data mining technology. Based on application of this information system, a four-step data mining prescription review model was created and put into practice, which included presentation of model for prescription evaluation, instance problem model, full-scale extraction of problem prescriptions tracking correction and dynamic monitoring of changes in drug dosage distribution for proposing new problem model."]

Education and Training

[Actual vs. perceived competency development – How can virtual patients impact pharmacist pre-registration training?](#)

Thompson, J. et al
Pharmacy, vol. 8(3)
August 2020

["Virtual patients are an active learning pedagogical tool that simulate clinical scenarios. There is an established disparity in pre-registration examination pass rates depending on whether individuals complete their training in a community or hospital pharmacy. This study aimed to evaluate virtual patient (VP) and non-interactive (NI) case studies, concerning knowledge, skill and confidence development of pre-registration pharmacist trainees."]

[Pilot study to evaluate knowledge of person-centred care, before and after a skill development programme, in a cohort of preregistration pharmacists within a large London hospital](#)

Barnett, N. et al
European Journal of Hospital Pharmacy: Science and Practice, vol. 27(4) pp. 222-225
July 2020

["Objective: To explore knowledge and confidence in person centred care in a cohort of 12 preregistration pharmacists before and after receipt of an in-house pharmacy-focussed skill development programme using qualitative and quantitative measures."]

[Quality improvement in community pharmacy: a qualitative investigation of the impact of a postgraduate quality improvement educational module on pharmacists understanding and practice](#)

Latif, A. et al
The International Journal of Pharmacy Practice
August 2020

["This study explores QI within the pharmacy context. Focusing on the community pharmacy 'Healthy Living Pharmacy scheme', this study aims to explore changes in QI understanding resulting from a postgraduate QI educational intervention. Methods: Four focus groups were held involving 13 community pharmacists enrolled onto a newly developed postgraduate QI educational module. Two focus groups were held before and two after the module's completion. Knowledge of QI and practical applications following the learning was explored."]

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