



# Pharmacy Matters

## Healthy Start - Vitamin Supplements and Vouchers

In light of the recent concerns over inadequate intakes of Vitamin D in the Chief Medical Officers letter [https://www.cas.dh.gov.uk/ViewAndAcknowledgment/viewAttachment.aspx?Attachment\\_id=101440](https://www.cas.dh.gov.uk/ViewAndAcknowledgment/viewAttachment.aspx?Attachment_id=101440) the NHS Cambridgeshire Public Health Team would like to request help in promoting the free Healthy Start vitamin supplements across Cambridgeshire. Pregnant women, new mothers and children under four years old qualify for support from Healthy Start – including free vitamin supplements – if they are in receipt of benefits. All pregnant under 18s qualify for the scheme until their baby is born, even if they do not meet the other criteria. Healthy Start Vitamins are available for both women and children and both sets meet recommendations on vitamin supplementation by the Department of Health. Women's vitamins tablets contain vitamins D, C and folic acid and children's vitamin drops contain vitamins A, C and D. The Government considers community pharmacists have a key role in the promotion of vitamins to local families and can help to promote the Healthy Start scheme and the vitamin supplements by talking to their customers, ordering posters directly from the Healthy Start website, and making leaflets available in the pharmacy. If pharmacies are interested in distributing the Healthy Start Vitamins for women and children or require any other information then please contact Penny Miller on 01353 865462 or e-mail [penny.miller@cambridgeshire.nhs.uk](mailto:penny.miller@cambridgeshire.nhs.uk)

Further local information about the scheme including a current list of local stockists as well as an information sheet for professional can be found at [www.cambridgeshire.nhs.uk](http://www.cambridgeshire.nhs.uk). National resources and information for both professionals and families including application forms, leaflets and posters are available directly from [www.healthystart.nhs.uk](http://www.healthystart.nhs.uk)

## Prescribing of Alternative Adrenaline Auto- Injectors

The NHS Cambridgeshire Formulary has changed the brand of adrenaline auto-injector (for patient use) from Epipen to Jext - see overleaf and GPs have been asked to start prescribing the alternative product once they have received the necessary training materials.

**Please ensure that you adjust your stock levels of Jext and Epipen so you are ready for this change in prescribing. Patients currently prescribed ANAPEN (which has a substantially different administration technique) will NOT be affected by this recommendation. They should continue to receive ANAPEN.**

A supporting pack (including patient information leaflets, DVD, and a training device) will be sent to all pharmacies in Cambridgeshire during February 2012. If you require on site training in your pharmacies, please contact [sarah.lacquiere@alk-abello.com](mailto:sarah.lacquiere@alk-abello.com) to arrange a suitable date.

## Information Governance Toolkit

Pharmacies that have not yet started the annual toolkit completion are reminded that it is a contractual obligation to attain minimum level 2 on all the pharmacy IG requirements (except 9-319—Business continuity planning) again this year. The toolkit must be completed by 31 March 2011. Currently less than 10% of the county's pharmacies have completed the toolkit. NHS Cambridgeshire will monitor compliance until the deadline to ensure 100% completion again this year. For further information, please contact the Information Governance Manager, Geraldine Nash on 01223 725451 or email [geraldine.nash@cambridgeshire.nhs.uk](mailto:geraldine.nash@cambridgeshire.nhs.uk).

## Public Health Campaigns 2011/12

The final Public Health Campaign of the financial year is Smoking Cessation and will be carried out in March. Please make sure you display the posters and leaflets which you will shortly receive. The deadline for returning the data collection forms to the Pharmaceutical Team is **Friday 13th April** and remember this counts as evidence towards delivery of Essential Service 4 of your contractual obligations.

The Department of Health has launched the first national NHS campaign to raise awareness of the symptoms of bowel cancer and have asked for pharmacy support to help make this campaign a success. The campaign focuses on having the symptoms 'blood in poo' or 'looser poo' for 3 or more weeks and runs from 30 January to the end of March 2012 on TV, radio and in the press. Pharmacies can get more details, including a pharmacy team factsheet at <http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/spotcancerearly/naedi/beclearoncancer/bowel/informationforpharmacies/>



# Pharmacy Matters

## CPPE Workshops

Please see below the CPPE workshops local to this area. If you are interested in attending any of the workshops listed below and would like further information or to book a place, please look on the CPPE website

[www.cppe.ac.uk](http://www.cppe.ac.uk)

- **Substance use and misuse: Delivering pharmacy services - public health**, April 25th, Holiday Inn, Cambridge.
- **Communication and Consultation Skills - An event for pharmacy technicians**, May 22nd, Stanley Library, Girton College, Cambridge.
- **Substance use and misuse: Delivering pharmacy services - public health**, June 21st, Holiday Inn Peterborough.
- **Palliative care - route to revalidation**, July 10th, Brampton Park Golf Club.
- **Child Health Focal Point**, Sept 18th - Holiday Inn Peterborough.

## Medicines Management in Domiciliary care

Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust (CCS) have asked for guidance to be shared with community pharmacies regarding whether the issuing of trays for patients who are on a care package and need prompting when taking medication is appropriate.

CCS advise care providers that Monitored Dosage Systems (MDS) should be limited to use in situations when it helps the patient to self administer. This includes situations when care staff prompt them (Level 1 support).

If the patient's condition deteriorates such that the carers are having to take charge and administer the medication, the care package would need to be upgraded to level 2 support. In that case the care staff have to be able to identify and take responsibility for each and every dose, it is then considered that original packs are then more appropriate than MDS.

For further information please see Assisting with Prescribed Medicines in a Domiciliary Setting Policy:

<http://www.cambscommunityservices.nhs.uk/Publications/Cambridgeshire/tabid/1564/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

## Business Continuity Plan

Following a flood in one of NHS Cambridgeshire's Pharmacies where the pharmacy was unable to trade for a week, pharmacies are reminded that they should ensure that they have a Business Continuity Plan in place that addresses emergency situations. The plan should consider the impact of any such situations on patients, as well as the pharmacy, and make provision to ensure that patients are able to continue to access pharmaceutical services whilst the pharmacy is out of action. A buddy system with another pharmacy may be the most appropriate solution. To help pharmacies prepare a continuity plan the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee has prepared guidance available at: [http://www.psn.org.uk/publications\\_detail.php/84guidance\\_on\\_service\\_continuity\\_planning\\_for\\_pharmacy](http://www.psn.org.uk/publications_detail.php/84guidance_on_service_continuity_planning_for_pharmacy)

## Formulary Changes

Jext is now the first line formulary choice for Adrenaline/Epinephrine in allergic emergencies.

Full information is being provided to all practices/pharmacies during February and March— see overleaf.

Prescribers are being advised that any prescription must be accompanied by patient information and demonstration of the device to the patient/carer and NOT to switch any patients until they have received full information. Pharmacies are strongly recommended to take up the offer of training for healthcare professionals and to confirm with patients/carers that they know how to use their device. This would be a suitable target group for intervention MURs.

**FORMULARY** (Diabetes documents) <http://www.cambsphn.nhs.uk/CJPG.aspx>

The following documents have been added to the section on diabetes drugs

- Liraglutide patient information sheet
- Liraglutide/exenatide patient transfer sheet (replaces exenatide checklist).

The gliptin checklist and general diabetes prescribing documents will be updated shortly to reflect change in prescribing arrangements for gliptins (see above).

**PRESCRIBING GUIDANCE** <http://www.cambsphn.nhs.uk/CJPG/PrescribingGuidelines.aspx>

The following document has been added:

- Clexane in pregnancy