

STANDARD 4.0 EFFECTIVE USE OF MEDICINES

Medicines used in the organisation are chosen to maximise safety, effectiveness and adherence to treatment.

4.1 MEDICINES POLICY

The pharmacy team supports an integrated approach to the choice of safe and clinically effective medicines for patients.

Wishaw General Hospital – NHS Lanarkshire

Wishaw General has a policy in place for the use of unlicensed medicines in neonatal and paediatrics to enable seamless care for patients from secondary to primary care. This includes:

- Shared care protocols for prescribing melatonin and buccal midazolam
- As many medicines are unlicensed or specials, they work closely with the patients GP to share responsibility of care, monitoring, etc and enable patients to be managed nearer to home.
- A standard letter to the patient's community pharmacy describing the medicines used by the patient (e.g. specials, unlicensed, off-label etc) and information on where to purchase from and reimbursement costs.

This approach helps to ensure that patients continue to be optimally managed as they move across care settings.

Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS FT

The Greater Manchester Medicines Management Group (GMMMG) acts on behalf of 12 CCGs for Greater Manchester. They work together on a range of medicines related issues e.g. new therapies, horizon scanning, formulary etc, for treatment across the region.

Patients often travel from all over the region to access specialist services. To enable some degree of continuity of care closer to their homes, GMMMG have developed a 'traffic light' system; listing medicines they would expect GPs to prescribe for complex regimes. Red – GP would not be expected to prescribe; green - would expect the GP to prescribe; amber - could be prescribed by the patients GP under a shared care protocol with the secondary care trust. The hospital provides comprehensive shared care guidelines that detail information on areas such as defined responsibilities of the primary and secondary care team, patient criteria, GP led monitoring etc.

4.2 MEDICINES PROCUREMENT

Medicines procurement is managed by pharmacy in a transparent and professional way. Quality assured medicines are procured through robust and appropriate processes.

Wishaw General Hospital – NHS Lanarkshire

Scotland has a Clinical Safety Group that reviews and decides which medicines Scotland will buy for use across all the Health Boards. Decisions are based on a number of factors including safety profile of the product, licensing status and ensuring that the health service can get the best value for money. In addition local contracts are negotiated by individual Health Boards for more specialised medicines such as specials for neonates, unlicensed medicines etc. These are cross-checked with other hospitals to ensure that the organisation has similar products and contracts as their peers, based on quality, safety and value.

King's College Hospital NHS FT

The Pharmacy and Medicines Use workstream of the NHS London Procurement Partnership (LPP) works to deliver cost effective prices on medicines and related products; and it supports London-wide QIPP work on medicines use and procurement. More information is available on the website: <http://www.lpp.nhs.uk/default.asp>. They provide London Trusts with cost-effective, quality and safe procurement, alongside a range of services to make the best use of medicines e.g. Homecare service providers and contract negotiations; immunosuppressant repatriation.

Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust

The Regional QC Office facilitates regular 'Recall Exercises'. A 'mock' situation of a drug recall usually occurs out of hours. The on-call pharmacist is contacted by the QC office and given details about a faulty batch or product. The pharmacist then follows a defined protocol based on identifying and isolating the batch; making risk assessments about patient safety, suitability of recall etc. They will also inform the Trust Chief Pharmacist and any other relevant people. There is a clear audit trail of all their actions, especially as the on-call pharmacists will be working alone out of hours. Any learning outcomes are collected by the regional QC office and used to update the process/protocol. These exercises ensure that staff are suitably trained, competent and ready for a real-life situation

4.3 CUSTOM-MADE MEDICINES

Any medicines custom-made by, or for, the organisation are quality assured and appropriate for their intended use.

Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust

At Alder Hey, where possible, custom-made and unlicensed medicines are sourced from a supplier listed on the regional Quality Control North West (QCNW) list of "Approved Suppliers". Each product must be provided with a Certificate of Analysis (CA); if this is not available, the pharmacy procurement department will liaise with QCNW to discuss the need for further testing. On delivery, all custom-made and unlicensed products are quarantined until their use has been authorised by a named technician or pharmacist, who have satisfied agreed competencies for releasing custom-made unlicensed medicines supported by a CA. The pharmacy procurement team will also liaise with QCNW when an alternative supplier is used, sending samples when requested, if the product has not previously been tested.

Custom-made and unlicensed medicines are also checked by the medicines information team, who advise on the suitability of excipients for children. All custom-made and unlicensed medicines are flagged on the pharmacy computer system to indicate their unlicensed status and ensure that they receive special attention at all stages of the procurement and dispensing process.

These processes help to assure the quality and safety of custom-made and unlicensed products used within the organisation.