



April 2018

North Midlands Controlled Drugs Newsletter

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CD Reporting Tool:
www.cdreporting.co.uk

CD Local Intelligence Network

CD LIN Diary Dates

Shropshire & Staffordshire:
23 May 2018

Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire:
13 June 2018

Drug Misuse Statistics

The 2018 drug misuse statistics have been published and are available online. <http://digital.nhs.uk/catalogue/PUB30210>

The Controlled Drugs Newsletter contains local and national CD information. You can use the dedicated e-mail in-boxes to contact us. For Shropshire and Staffordshire e-mail: england.cd_x24n@nhs.net, and for Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire e-mail: england.nottsderbycontrolleddrugs@nhs.net

Advice on dealing with fraudulent prescriptions

Over recent months there has been a small increase in the number of reported fraudulent prescriptions presented at pharmacies. Community pharmacists are asked to treat any handwritten or amended prescriptions with extreme caution and to check with the prescriber if you have any concerns.

How to spot a fraudulent prescription:

- Spelling mistakes, awkward phrasing, such as 'nightly' / & odd names
- GP signature - unusual, suspiciously illegible?
- General manner of the person presenting the prescription
- Often fraudulent prescriptions are presented out of surgery hours – late, or at weekends
- Odd quantities or drug combinations e.g. nitrazepam and diazepam
- Think about who would be hand writing this script, and why e.g. a month's supply of tramadol, pregabalin, diazepam, nitrazepam, codeine – unlikely from a home visit?
- Handwritten prescriptions would not normally be written on an FP10SS form (designed for printing) – if this form has been used with a stamp, or handwritten surgery address, it is likely to be fraudulent

If you believe that a prescription is fraudulent, contact the police on 101 and the CDAO. Any pharmacy detecting and retaining a fraudulent prescription are eligible for a reward payment, details are in the Drug Tariff.

CDs and Fitness to drive

Learning from a recent CD incident highlighted uncertainty from the prescriber involved as to when the DVLA should be contacted with regards to fitness to drive.

For guidance on this issue the DVLA have a publication which is intended to assist doctors and other healthcare professionals. It summarises the national medical guidelines on fitness to drive and should help prescribers identify when they are required to notify DVLA when the individual concerned, cannot or will not notify the DVLA themselves:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/assessing-fitness-to-drive-a-guide-for-medical-professionals>

Safe Disposal of Empty Methadone Bottles

The Medicines, Ethics and Practice (MEP) guidance advises that once a methadone bottle is emptied as far as possible, bottles can be rinsed out and the liquid added to a denaturing kit and treated as pharmaceutical waste. You can use cat litter to dispose of the rinsings so you will not have to use denaturing kits for this rinsing.

The empty rinsed bottles can then be disposed of via your general waste or recycling. Disposal of irretrievable amounts of controlled drugs does not need to be recorded.

Common Issues Identified at CD Destruction Visits

Running Balance - The running balance of a controlled drug **must** include any out of date stock, until the denaturing of the item is witnessed by an authorised witness. CD running balances should be calculated and recorded after each transaction and regular stock balance checks should be completed as per your SOPs. Best practice is to complete stock checks weekly as it helps to identify any discrepancies or errors quickly and allow timely investigation of the discrepancy.

New CD Registers - Take care transferring quantities from old CD registers to new to ensure your balance figures are accurate.

Patient Returns - Patients Schedule 2 CD returns should be recorded in the bound patients CD returns book as soon as practicable i.e. on the day they are received and denatured in a timely manner. A second member of staff should act as a witness, recording the destruction in the patients CD returns book.

CD Register Corrections/ Amendments - Ensure any corrections/amendments in the CD register are not crossed through or rubbed out. They should have an asterisk (*) next to the entry and details of the amendment entered as a footnote next to another asterisk (*) at the bottom of the page. This entry must be signed and dated. Remember to always use an indelible pen, do not use pencil or corrective fluid.

Effects of NPS

<p>You can report the harmful effects of NPS on the Public Health England website. Report Illicit Drug Reaction (RIDR) is intended to better monitor the negative effects</p>	<p>of NPS and share best treatment practice across a variety of settings including A&E, sexual health clinics, mental health services, prison health services, drug</p>	<p>treatment services and GP surgeries. Data from the tool will be analysed by experts in terms of symptoms and harms.</p>
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NPS e-learning resource

A new e-learning resource is available from Project Neptune, on new/novel and club drugs. Which consists of training modules, that are easy to use for front line clinicians and other practitioners.

Text based modules that walk you through the main points, summarise and then offer you a test.

There are seven modules:

- 1: An introduction to club drugs and novel psychoactive substances
 - 2: Acute harms and management of depressants (club drugs and novel psychoactive substances)
 - 3: Acute harms and management of stimulants (club drugs and novel psychoactive substances)
 - 4: Acute harms and management of Synthetic Cannabinoid Receptor Agonists and new hallucinogens
 - 5: Chronic harms and management of depressants (club drugs and novel psychoactive substances)
 - 6: Chronic harms and management of stimulants (club drugs and novel psychoactive substances)
 - 7: Chronic harms and management of Synthetic Cannabinoid Receptor Agonists and new hallucinogens
- You can register to access the free resource at : <http://neptune-clinical-guidance.co.uk/e-learning/>

Validity of Prescriptions

<p>There has been an increase in the number of incidents reported relating to out-of-date prescriptions being dispensed against. Prescription dates should be checked on each occasion prior to</p>	<p>dispensing. Schedule 2, 3 and 4 CDs are valid for 28 days from the date the prescription was signed unless the prescriber has specified a start date. For instalment dispensing prescriptions the first</p>	<p>supply must be made within 28 days and the remainder of the instalments must be dispensed in accordance with the directions on the prescription.</p>
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County Lines

Across the country, young people and vulnerable adults are being exploited by gangs to move and sell drugs in suburban areas, market towns and coastal regions. County Lines is the Police term for such activity. Please see the Home Office link to guidance [GPs, nurses and healthcare professionals told to safeguard victims of 'county lines'](#) which is aimed at frontline staff and healthcare professionals.

Key Messages

- What to do if presented with a fraudulent prescription
- CDs and Fitness to drive
- Safe disposal of empty methadone bottles
- Issues found in community pharmacies during CD destruction visits
- Substance misuse information

