



Learning from BCBS Medication Incidents

In February we saw 22 medication incidents reported for BCBS, 13 were external medication errors (4 poor discharges). A thematic review of the internal incidents highlighted that the following learning:

Checking Expiry Dates – Insulin

An incident occurred in a domiciliary setting where a patient was administered insulin for 2 weeks after it had expired.

Staff are reminded to ensure they are following the **10 Rights of administration** when undertaking their checks. This is described in detail on page 19 of ELFT's [Medicines Policy](#)

Insulin Storage

Unopened vials /cartridges /prefilled pens

- store in a fridge at 2 - 8° C.
- Efficacy is maintained until the expiry date.

Insulin in use

- can be stored at room temperature (below 25° C) for up to **28 days**.
- When the insulin is used for the first time, ensure a label is used to note the date and time of opening.

Ensure insulin is discarded if it has been out of the fridge for 28 days or more. For further information refer to the [Policy for the Safe Use of Insulin](#)

MHRA Drug Safety Update and ELFT Medication Safety Bulletin

The MHRA monthly drug safety update and the Trust's monthly medicines safety bulletin are available here:

<https://www.elft.nhs.uk/intranet/teams-support-me/pharmacy/medicines-safety>



Good Practice Interventions



Navreet Gill – pharmacy technician undertook a medicines reconciliation for a patient who was discharged from the acute hospital. A discrepancy with the patient's omeprazole dose was identified. Medicines reconciliation was not undertaken by the pharmacy team on admission to the acute and led to a transcribing error at ward level. The patient was then discharged on the incorrect dose. There was no confirmed intentional change during the admission and the GP was tasked to review. A poor discharge alert was also raised.

Jacky White – pharmacy technician undertook a medicines reconciliation for a patient and saw that on the discharge letter only new medication and changes had been listed. There was no mention of regular medication to be continued. Working with the care home manager, the ward was contacted and the discrepancies resolved. The GP was then tasked. A poor discharge alert was also raised.

Staffing Changes

Please join us in congratulating **Jacky White** who has been successfully appointed as a **Band 6 Lead Pharmacy Technician for BCBS**. Well done Jacky!

Medication Shortages

Relevant shortages highlighted by the ELFT pharmacy procurement team are now located on the intranet: <https://www.elft.nhs.uk/intranet/teams-support-me/pharmacy/medicines-shortages>

New additions include:

- **Sofradex Ear/Eye drops** out of stock until end April 2023
- **Meptazinol (Meptid®) 200mg film-coated tablets** out of stock until late June 2023
- **Dioralyte® oral rehydration sachets** out of stock until April 2023
- **Capsaicin 0.075% (Axsain) and 0.025% (Zacin) cream**-supply an issue until end June 2023

Any particular concerns regarding shortages, pharmacy have access to the Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) online medicines supply tool with up to date procurement issues. www.sps.nhs.uk