



Learning from BCCHS Medication Incidents

In July we saw 24 medication incidents reported for BCCHS, 10 were external medication errors (6 of which were poor discharges). A thematic review of the internal incidents have highlighted the following learning:

Controlled Drug Stock Checks

Please be mindful when undertaking stock checks of controlled drugs in domiciliary settings. We have seen a number of errors recently where stock levels of midazolam were recorded incorrectly. It was thought that stock was missing when this was not the case.

Discrepancies were due to accidentally counting in cyclizine in with the midazolam or not counting in different branded products of midazolam.

Learning

Use a separate stock sheet for each Controlled drug

Patients and relatives should be encouraged to store in original dispensed labelled boxes

Keep different strengths physically separated to minimize risk

Patient's stock of controlled drugs should be checked, counted, reconciled and clearly recorded at the time of every administration

Please refer to: [Safe Management of Patients Own Controlled Drugs in the Domiciliary Setting](#)

Recruitment Update

Clare Moody (Lead pharmacy technician) will join the team on 14/8/23

Humayra Motin (Foundation pharmacist) has now joined our team on rotation.

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



Kelly Pritchard (clinical pharmacist) well done for receiving feedback from the nursing teams on 'how fantastic and both responsive and diligent she is'. 'She is a real credit to your team'. Congratulations also for being nominated for the Support Services Award for the 2023 East London NHS Foundation Trust's Staff Awards.

Jacky White (pharmacy technician) intervened when a care home patient was discharged from A&E without a discharge letter and with co-amoxiclav tablets that were not labelled. The care home was unable to transcribe the medication without a label/discharge letter and so A&E were contacted for a letter and a GP was contacted for a prescription.

Priti Patel (pharmacy technician) intervened when a patient was discharged from the acute without any information regarding their regular Epoetin alfa injection which was usually administered every 10 days via the district nurse. The hospital's haematology department was contacted and the omission was confirmed as unintentional. A prescription was then obtained from the clinic to enable the nursing staff to continue the treatment and prevent a delay for the patient.

Navreet Gill (pharmacy technician) intervened when a patient had been discharged with insufficient doses to complete the prescribed antibiotic course. She liaised with the acute hospital and GP to ensure the patient was reviewed.

Medication Shortages

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

Tegretol® (carbamazepine) 100mg tablets will be out of stock during August 2023.

Gaviscon Oral Advance Resupply date that they have given is 09.09.2023

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

Any questions or queries please contact the pharmacy team on elft.pharmacybchs@nhs.net
<https://www.elft.nhs.uk/intranet/teams-support-me/pharmacy/pharmacy-community-health-services-chs>.