



## Learning from BCBS Medication Incidents

In December we saw 23 medication incidents reported for BCBS, 16 were external medication errors. A thematic review of the internal incidents have highlighted the following learning:

### Incident

Glycopyrronium injection which was 4 days out of date was administered to a patient in error. No harm came to the patient in this incident. The expired medication was removed from circulation and a new supply obtained.

### Good Practice and Learning

All staff should familiarise themselves with the **10R's** of safe administration of medicine

1.Right Patient	2.Right Consent	3.Right Time
4.Right Medicines	5.Right Dose	6.Right Route
7.Right Expiry	8.Right Documentation	9.Right Effect
10.Right Education		

This is described in detail on page 19 of ELFT's [Medicines Policy](#).

## 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>



Any questions or queries please contact the pharmacy team on [elft.pharmacybchs@nhs.net](mailto:elft.pharmacybchs@nhs.net)

<https://www.elft.nhs.uk/intranet/teams-support-me/pharmacy/pharmacy-community-health-services-chs>.

Bulletin produced by Kelly Pritchard Specialist Clinical Pharmacist Bedfordshire Community Services 12/01/24

## Good Practice Interventions



**Tracy Flanagan (Heart Failure Nurse)** Intervened when a patient was prescribed ramipril (an ACE inhibitor) by their GP. It was identified that this was contraindicated as the patient was already on Sacubitril/Valsartan (Entresto). The BNF states that concomitant use with an ACE inhibitor is contraindicated due to risk of angioedema. The patient had taken both medications for several days. Tracy sent an urgent task to GP to review the patient's bloods and prescribe an alternative. She telephoned the patient to withhold/stop the medication until review. Great work Tracy!

**Clare Moody (lead pharmacy technician)** Intervened when a patient was discharged without their usual ibuprofen and mirabegron. The patient was experiencing urinary symptoms and the GP was informed of the discrepancy for review.

**Priti Patel (pharmacy technician)** Intervened when a patient was sent home with clarithromycin Injection as well as both carbocysteine capsules and liquid without any information on the discharge letter. She clarified with the acute hospital that the patient was to continue with carbocysteine liquid and that the clarithromycin injection was to be discarded.

A big thank you to Priti for also providing extra support at short notice for the mental health teams in Luton over the Christmas period. Priti also had to cover increased BCBS caseloads due to staff training and annual leave during this period.

**Jacqueline White (lead pharmacy technician)** Congratulations on her new role as Education and Training Program Director. Jacky is supporting with the training for pre-registration pharmacy technicians. She now has overall responsibility for the pre-registration pharmacy technician rotas and the progress of the students through their 2 year course at ELFT.

## 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>

**Diazepam 2mg/5ml oral solution sugar free** is out of stock until February 2024.

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](http://www.sps.nhs.uk)