



Learning from BCBS Medication Incidents

In August we saw 29 medication incidents reported for BCBS, 21 were external medication errors.

This month the pharmacy team wanted to share the following learning;

Cream and Ointment Expiry Dates

It has been brought to our attention that there have been reports of patient's own creams and ointments being incorrectly discarded after 28 days whether or not they are out of date or not.

An example recently was Ovestin cream which should last 3 months per tube with twice weekly application, the product information says do not use after the expiry date. There is nothing stated by the manufacturers about shortening that expiry once opened however it was being discarded after 28 days. This is therefore wasteful and placing unnecessary burden on resources.

Learning

Creams and ointments can be used until they expire which is the manufacturer's date on the packaging or as per the manufacturer's advice in the [Summary of Product Characteristics](#).

Antibiotic Prescribing Resources

Resources to support with the management of antibiotics:

The Royal College of General Practitioners' [TARGET antibiotics toolkit](#)

[NICE Antimicrobial stewardship Guidance](#)

PHE and Health Education England's e-learning session [All Our Health: Antimicrobial Resistance](#)

[BLMK ICB Antimicrobial Prescribing Primary Care Guidelines](#)

Good Practice Interventions



The BCBS Lead Pharmacy Technicians are supporting with a pharmacy medicines reconciliation pilot with the virtual wards in the north and south. Thank you to **Jacqueline White (Lead Pharmacy Technician)** and **Clare Moody (Lead Pharmacy Technician)** for their hard work.

Congratulations **Kelly Pritchard (Clinical Pharmacist)** for being accepted to start the UCL independent prescribing course, she is starting in October, Good luck for your course.

Priti Patel (Pharmacy Technician) and **Saema Arain (Lead Pharmacist)** are starting a QI project on "Improving inappropriate discharges from acute hospitals into community related to medicines management".

Thank you to all the **BCBS Pharmacy Technicians** for providing pharmaceutical support across the hubs in the upcoming flu campaign.

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>

Isosorbide mononitrate 60mg modified-release tablets and capsules -limited supply issue until December 2024.

Kay-Cee-L Syrup National Shortage National Patient Safety Alert + Trust wide Clinical Alert: will be out of stock from late September 2024 resupply date is yet to be confirmed.

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

ELFT Medication Safety Page

The Trust's medicines safety page is available on the intranet: <https://www.elft.nhs.uk/intranet/teams-support-me/pharmacy/medicines-safety>

MHRA – [Drug Safety Update](#)



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>.