

Quality and Safety Bulletin

This is the learning from the
Serious Incidences and Significant Event Audits in primary care



May 2019

Number 1

In This Issue

- Immunisation errors
- Cold chain awareness
- Pressure ulcer treatment
- Medication error
- Sarcomas
- CAS alert – Community Pharmacies and Dispensing GP Practices
- PAG Bites
- Feedback

Immunisation errors

A number of incidences have occurred in primary care. The following helpful guide to support the running of safe childhood immunisation clinic has been produced by the RCN:-

[Click here](#)

Cold chain awareness

If vaccines are not stored and managed properly there is significant disruption to patients, a potential risk to efficiency and wastage of NHSE resources. The following is the most up to date guidance from Public Health England:-

[Click here for Cold chain protocol](#)

Pressure ulcer treatment

The learning from pressure ulcer Serious Incident (SI) in primary is that wounds required visually examination prior to treatment. With any telephone consultations it is recommended that the visual examination should be within 3 working days - unless the patient confirms it has gone or it is close to the weekend when it may need to be seen sooner.

Medication errors

Learning from a Serious Incident (SI) is that Practices:-

- need to be aware that patients can order some medications on-line. Practices need to be particularly vigilant with patients at high risk of self-harm;
- when repeat prescription of high-risk medication ie warfarin, are completed on-line it must be double checked to ensure it is appropriate for the patient;
- if the carer is completing the repeat prescription on behalf of the patient, the practice will need to be clear that the carer has capacity. The carers understanding of the patient's condition and medication may need to be reviewed.

Sarcomas

There have been several Serious Incidents due to the late and missed diagnosis of bone and soft tissue Sarcoma.

The attached web site gives clear guidance for general practice. Please see Sarcoma Diagnostic Toolkit:-



[Click here for toolkit](#)

Sarcomas are potentially a curable cancer before reaching a certain size. This is a reoccurring issue – lumps are not always innocent and can be a sarcoma.

[Click here for NICE Guidance](#)

Suspected cancer NICE Guidance - Suspected cancer: recognition and referral.

The Cancer Alliance clinical leads for cancer early diagnosis are **Sadaf Haque** - sadaf.haque@nhs.net for SWAG and **Joe Mays** - joe.mays@nhs.net for the Peninsula. Please contact them if you need additional advice.

CAS alert - Community Pharmacies and Dispensing GP practices

Alert from Genesis Pharmaceuticals Ltd:-

[Click here for Genesis guide](#)

For all CAS alerts please visit the following web site:

[Click here for CAS alerts](#)

PAG Bites - Issue 2, March 2019

Topics covered in most recent PAG Bites:-

- Lithium prescribing and Lithium toxicity
- Paracetamol overdose and subsequent management in Primary Care
- Chaperones – to use or not to use? That is the question...

Feedback

If you would like to give NHS England and NHS Improvement any feedback on this bulletin, please email Ruthhall@NHS.net or nicolamayo@nhs.net