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Welcome message

Dear Pharmacist,

This month saw the official and historic launch in Dublin Castle by An Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD of the new Irish Institute of Pharmacy and the National Forum for Pharmacy Education and Accreditation.

Over the coming months pharmacists will begin to receive more detailed information from the PSI and the new Institute about the CPD system being put in place for the profession, and also on the developments and expansions in pharmacy practice that will become possible with such a CPD system.

A future significant event for pharmacy in Ireland will be 31st August to 5th September 2013 when the FIP annual congress will be held in Dublin. This event will bring more than 3000 pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists from across the globe to Ireland for a week-long event of education and networking, and will provide a unique opportunity for the profession here to explore issues of interest with colleagues from around the world.

This year's congress will be held in Amsterdam and below are further details about how you can participate. The PSI would like to hear from any pharmacists in Ireland who are travelling to Amsterdam for the FIP congress this year.

Finally, this month's newsletter brings in the first in a series of advisory articles from the PSI's inspectorate on compliance issues arising during routine inspections with a focus on Controlled Drugs issues.

PSI/ICPE consultation skills training day

The PSI/ICPE taskforce has developed a one-day training course for pharmacists in consultation skills, with a particular focus on the role of pharmacists in encouraging and enabling patients in the appropriate use of non-prescription medicines. As more medicines are moved to "pharmacist supply" and more clinical services are introduced in pharmacies, along with the advent of patient consultation areas in pharmacies, it is important that pharmacists maintain and develop their competency and confidence in relation to patient consultations and communicating with patients.

The aim of this one day training course is to build on pharmacists' existing skills, confidence and understanding in engaging patients in effective consultations, and will focus on the tasks that make-up a patient consultation from start to finish, including requests for information, products, diagnosis and so on.

The course will be held on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd April at Citywest Hotel. Places are limited so early booking is advised. For further information and bookings contact the ICPE at info@icpe.ie

PSI Inspectors' Advice on CD Compliance Issues

Compliance with the various requirements for safe custody, prescriptions and record-keeping for controlled drugs (CDs) are an important element of the PSI's routine inspections of pharmacies. All pharmacies will have recently received the new CD register and destruction record books which aim to facilitate pharmacists with these requirements and their own ongoing audit of the management of CDs within their pharmacy.

The inspectors would like to highlight the following key points to pharmacists regarding the various requirements:

Prescriptions:

- Controlled drugs (Schedule 2 ,3, 4) can only be supplied on foot of an **original**

valid prescription which must be physically present and reviewed by the pharmacist prior to dispensing to the patient. The prescription must be signed and dated by the prescriber. Faxed prescriptions are **not** an original prescription.

- A prescription for a Schedule 2 and 3 controlled drug is valid for **fourteen (14) days** from the date of issue indicated on the prescription.
- Repeat prescriptions for Schedule 1, Schedule 2 or Schedule 3 Controlled Drugs are **not** permitted
- All prescriptions, including GMS duplicate prescriptions, must be endorsed with the quantity dispensed and the date on which it was dispensed.
- Remember to check for signs of unusual, excessive or inappropriate prescribing and bring concerns to the attention of (a) the prescriber or (b) the relevant statutory authority.
- Where a prescription is to be dispensed in instalments, the prescription must contain a direction specifying the amount of the instalments and the intervals at which the instalments may be dispensed. No instalment can be supplied later than two months after the date specified in the prescription.
- The prescriber is required to handwrite the following particulars on a prescription for CD2 and CD3 medicine:
 - Full name and address of the person for whom the prescription is issued
 - Form and strength (where appropriate) of the preparation
 - Amount/total quantity prescribed in words and figures
 - Dose to be taken

Emergency Supply:

- Remember Emergency supply at the request of a patient or at the request of a medical practitioner is **not** permitted for Schedule 1, 2 3 or 4 controlled drugs

Record keeping:

- Remember that any corrections entered in the CD Register must be made by footnote (correction fluid and alterations to entries are not permitted)
- Previously dispensed controlled drugs returned to the pharmacy must **never** be re-introduced into stock and/or re-used. The destruction of these medicines should be recorded in the designated 'Controlled Drugs Destruction Record Book' provided by the PSI.
- Don't forget to reconcile the balance indicated in the register against the physical stock located in the CD Safe on a regular basis. Pages 12/13 of the PSI CD register can be used to record regular accuracy checks by the supervising pharmacist.
- Remember to keep all prescriptions, invoices and CD Registers at the pharmacy premises (not offsite) for two years from the date of last entry

Further guidance on the record keeping requirements for drugs is contained in the Register of Controlled Drugs provided by the PSI.

Relevant pharmacy and medicines legislation can be accessed on the [PSI website](#).

Safe Custody:

- All schedule 3 controlled drugs (CD3) must be stored in the safe. This includes temazepam (e.g. Nortem®, Tenox®etc) and flunitrazepam (e.g. Rohypnol®) preparations.
- All schedule 2 controlled drugs (CD2s) must be stored in the safe. This includes Methadone preparations. The PSI recently issued [guidance on methadone](#).
- Expired, non-conforming (e.g. damaged) Schedule 2 and 3 CDs should be stored in the CD safe, segregated from 'live' stock and clearly labelled 'CDs for destruction,' until they are destroyed in the presence of an authorised person (i.e. member of An Garda Síochána, PSI Authorised Officer (Inspector)).
- Patient-returned CDs should be promptly destroyed. While awaiting destruction, schedule 2 and 3 CDs should be stored in the CD safe, segregated from 'live' stock and clearly labelled 'Patient-returned CDs for destruction'.
- To meet 'Safe Custody' requirements, all safes for the storage of controlled drugs must be secured to a concrete wall or floor. If the safe does not bear the inscription I.S. 267:1985, the safe must be certified by a Garda Superintendent. Remember to retain this certificate at the pharmacy. Ideally this safe should be located out of the line of sight of the public.

Palliative Medicines Information Service

Palliative Meds Info is a national medicines information service which is pharmacist-led and based at Our Lady's Hospice and Care Services in Harold's Cross in Dublin. The service aims to be an educational and practice resource for pharmacists and other health professionals caring for patients with palliative care needs. The service responds to telephone and email enquiries from health professionals on all aspects of drug therapy in palliative care, including queries on pain and symptom control and sourcing medicines for palliative care patients.

Queries can be sent to the service by calling **01 4912578** or by emailing palliativemedinfo@olh.ie.

Further information about the service available on their [website](#).

The service also plans to launch a regular e-newsletter for health professionals.

Pharmacists can subscribe to this newsletter by emailing palliativemedinfo@olh.ie

Be active at FIP 2012!

As pharmacists in Ireland will be aware the FIP 2013 Congress will be held in Dublin, and over the coming year the PSI and its partners will be encouraging you to participate in next year's event.

This year is the FIP Centennial congress and it will be held in Amsterdam from the 3rd to 8th October. FIP are looking for pharmacists who are interested in presenting a poster or short communication at the 2012 event.

The community pharmacy section themes of special interest are: Dispensing Activities (Processes); Counselling Activities and Supporting Adherence; Pharmacy Services; GPP; Compounding but abstracts on other themes are welcome.

The abstract form can be found on the [FIP homepage](#) and the closing date is **April 1, 2012**.

Another special project for this centennial congress is **100 Pharmacists Talking**. FIP will be preparing a video of up to 100 pharmacists globally presenting themselves, their pharmacy, and their opinion on certain pharmacy themes which will be shown as part of the centennial event in Amsterdam. Information on how to participate in this interesting project will soon be posted on the [FIP website](#).

The PSI would like to hear from any pharmacists in Ireland who are intending to travel to the FIP 2012 congress in October.

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