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Overview

This month's newsletter contains new guidance on the provision of testing services in pharmacies for patient diagnosis, monitoring and screening. There is also revised guidance on supply to patients in residential care settings with an accompanying explanatory note arising from queries received by PSI seeking clarification regarding the documentation requirements for the lawful supply of controlled drugs where patients in nursing homes are concerned.



This issue also contains an important note on the supply on Enbrel®, inspectors advice regarding the storage of medicines and advance notice that the Irish Institute of Pharmacy, through its Peer Support Pharmacists, will be holding a series of countrywide information meetings beginning in April.

In the November newsletter we highlighted the Medicines Management Forum which was jointly hosted by the PSI, the HSE Medication Management Programme and the Office of the Nursing and Midwifery Services Director of the HSE. A number of presentations from the Forum are now available to view on the [PSI website](#).

Finally, a reminder that the public consultation on the draft statutory instrument (S.I.) relating to the education and training of pharmacists will close at midday on Monday, 3rd March. Further information in relation to this can be found on the [PSI website](#).

New Guidance on the Provision of Testing Services

The PSI Council has approved new [Guidance on the Provision of Testing Services in Pharmacies](#).

Testing services are increasingly provided in pharmacies for patient diagnosis, monitoring and screening. The appropriate use of tests by pharmacists has the capacity to increase patient access to these services and to improve public health. However, in order to maximise patient outcomes and ensure patient safety, tests should only be offered or performed by pharmacists where there is an established clinical and scientific evidence base and for which the validity, accuracy and reliability of the test(s) can be assured to patients, and that they are equally assured of the quality and standard of care that they can expect in pharmacies.

The guidance is intended to apply to all tests performed, sold or supplied in pharmacies and is now available to view and download from the [PSI website](#). If you have any queries on this guidance please contact the PSI at info@thepsi.ie.

Revisions to Guidance on Supply to Patients in Residential Care Settings

The PSI has published two new pieces of guidance aimed to support

pharmacists in providing care to patients in residential care settings, including nursing homes.

Firstly, the PSI has published a new guidance piece entitled [Guidance on the Supply by Pharmacists in Retail Pharmacy Businesses of Medicines to Patients in Residential Care Settings/Nursing Homes](#). This is a revised version of the '*PSI Practice Notice 1/2010-supply by pharmacists of medicines to patients in residential care settings/nursing homes*'. The amendments clarify a number of elements of interactions between pharmacies and nursing homes, relating to the importance of prescriptions, the appropriate delivery of medicines and the essential role of the pharmacist in the counselling of patients in nursing homes. The guidance has also been updated to include a self-audit checklist to aid pharmacists in assessing their current practice.

The PSI has also produced an [Explanatory Note](#) on the documentation and other requirements to be met by pharmacists in retail pharmacy businesses in making supplies of controlled drugs to patients in nursing homes. The purpose of this explanatory note is to set out the requirements under the Misuse of Drugs Acts for the supply by pharmacists in retail pharmacy businesses of Schedule 2 and Schedule 3 controlled drugs to patients in nursing homes.

In addition the PSI would like to draw pharmacists attention to additional resources, including podcasts, available on the [PSI website](#) that may be useful in planning, providing and auditing the care and service they provide to patients in nursing homes.

Safe Supply of Enbrel®

A number of dispensing errors in relation to the prescription only medicine Enbrel® have been brought to the attention of the PSI's Inspection and Enforcement team. These involve, in particular, prescriptions dispensed outside of their expiry date resulting in patients not receiving the necessary medical review.

If you dispense Enbrel® at your pharmacy, please ensure that the prescription for your patients' Enbrel® is up to date and valid on each occasion it is dispensed. All prescriptions should be endorsed at the time of dispensing. For further information please review the [good dispensing practice notice](#) issued by the PSI for the management of the supply of medicinal products under the High Tech Scheme.

Inspectors' Advice on Storage Conditions

As part of a regular pharmacy inspection the storage conditions of medicines are examined to ensure that medicines are being held in the appropriate environment and stored in accordance with pharmacy and medicines legislation, and PSI Guidelines. Over the course of inspections in 2013, PSI Inspectors noted repeat findings of inappropriate storage conditions, including failures to regularly record storage temperatures.

The maintenance of appropriate storage conditions is imperative to assure the quality, safety and efficacy of medicines and to assure traceability.

PSI Inspectors have compiled [these key reminders](#) to help you review storage conditions in your pharmacy.

Pharmacy Inspections

The PSI is responsible for supervising compliance with the Pharmacy Act 2007 and the instruments made under it, in the interests of patient safety and public protection. In the discharge of these functions, the PSI conducts compliance inspections on an unannounced basis. The PSI recently

conducted a pilot study of announced inspections to inform the PSI's inspection policy going forward. This pilot has now come to an end. The PSI remains committed to completing its target that every community pharmacy will have received at least one formal inspection by an Authorised Officer of the PSI by the end of 2014.

Further information on the [inspection process](#); a useful checklist, podcasts, 'Inspectors' Advice' articles that have been included in previous PSI newsletters, and other resources are available on the PSI website.

IIOP Information Meetings Countrywide

The Irish Institute of Pharmacy (IIOP) will hold a series of information events around the country in April and May. These will address the IIOP's role and intended programme. Pharmacists are encouraged to attend to meet with Peer Support Pharmacists in their area and to learn of upcoming activities with the IIOP. Dates and locations are available on the [IIOP website](#).

Placement List for NPIP 2014/2015

Any pharmacist who wishes to have their name included as a tutor on the placement list for the 2014/2015 National Pharmacy Internship Programme (NPIP) should please contact the PSI by email at education@thepsi.ie. The placement list is published on the [PSI website](#) and is updated on a weekly basis.

Upcoming CPD Opportunities

IPU Academy Spring Programme

The Spring Programme of the IPU Academy has begun. Details of this season's continuing education courses and countrywide locations are now available on the [IPU Academy website](#) or you can download the [programme brochure here](#).

IMB Drug Safety Newsletter

The latest Drug Safety Newsletter from the Irish Medicines Board is now available on the [IMB website](#). This edition particularly features an update on the risk of venous thromboembolism with combined hormonal contraceptives.

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