Welcome

Welcome to the July 2016 edition of the Area Drug and Therapeutics Committee (ADTC) Collaborative newsletter.

Previous editions of our bi-monthly newsletters are available on the Healthcare Improvement Scotland website at www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/our_work/technologies_and_medicines/adtc_collaborative.aspx

If you’d like to join our mailing list for future ADTC Collaborative news and events, email hcis.adtc-collaborative@nhs.net

Medicines in Scotland: What’s the right treatment for you?

The ADTC has launched a new medicines factsheet for patients and the public, Medicines in Scotland: What’s the right treatment for you?, focusing on the patient journey from consultation to prescription. The factsheet explains how healthcare professionals decide whether to prescribe a medicine and, if so, which to prescribe.

The factsheet has the potential to underpin conversations between patients and healthcare professionals and ultimately lead to higher quality care and better outcomes.

The medicines factsheet is available for download from the Healthcare Improvement Scotland website and A5 hard copies will be made available throughout NHS Scotland later in 2016/17.

Events

ADTCC National Conference 2016
24th November, Glasgow

Safer Use of Medicines WebEx
24th August, 5th October & 7th December
12.00 – 13.00

We’d be delighted to hear your experiences, views and feedback on how you and your healthcare team have used the medicines factsheet.

If you’d like to get in touch with the ADTC Collaborative team email hcis.adtc-collaborative@nhs.net
Formulary decisions template and terminology

Since January, many NHS boards have been piloting the standard template for communicating local formulary decisions for new medicines to patients and the public.

The ADTC Collaborative team sought feedback on implementation difficulties found during the pilot and, as a result, modifications will be made to the template and terminology. Further guidance will be produced for those managing these communications and ways to reduce duplication of effort will be explored. The final template, terminology and additional guidance for implementation will be communicated in due course and in the meantime, NHS boards are encouraged to continue the pilot to promote greater consistency in approach.

NHS Inform now has a single page of updated links to all local formulary decisions in Scotland plus information aimed at patients and the public at www.nhsinform.co.uk/health-library/articles/m/medicinesinfo/introduction

Safer use of medicines network WebEx events

The Safer Use of Medicines Network (SUOMN) WebEx events are a supportive environment for sharing learning around medication incidents and adverse effects. The events are open to all NHS Scotland healthcare professionals including community pharmacists and those in primary care.

All NHS boards in Scotland contribute to the WebEx series by presenting a medication incident/adverse effect learning in brief at one of the events. The next SUoMN WebEx is 24th August at 12pm. If you’d like to present at this or a future WebEx please contact the ADTC Collaborative at hcis.adtc-collaborative@nhs.net.

ADTCC National Conference, 24th November 2016, Glasgow

The Area Drug and Therapeutics Committee Collaborative Annual Conference is the only event in Scotland to bring together clinical leaders in medicines governance for learning and networking. This year, the focus is on evidence and outcomes.

The Conference will be opened by the Chief Medical and Chief Pharmaceutical Officers and will feature plenary and workshop sessions, plus speakers from the Independent Review of Medicines Access in Scotland, The Farr Institute and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde. Look out for registration details soon.

Declarations of interest

A template policy outlining processes to ensure open and transparent decision-making and recording declarations of interest was distributed to ADTCs in mid-June. The policy template sets out roles and responsibilities for NHS board committees and individuals involved in making decisions relating to medicines governance.

If you haven’t already got a policy in place please feel free to adopt or amend this template for local use. If your ADTC has a policy in place, hopefully the template will prompt you to review your local procedures and ensure that declarations of interest are up to date. As ever, we would be pleased to receive feedback.

Biological medicines template switch letters

In March 2016, two national template switch leaflets for patients: infliximab and biosimilars and etanercept and biosimilars, were distributed to ADTCs. The switch leaflets are generalisable to other biological medicines. NHS boards can adapt and personalise the template switch leaflets to fit with their local requirements.