Seven steps to success with inhalers

Reminder cards are now available to help support healthcare professionals in providing instruction of inhaler technique during patient consultations. The new resource was created by a team at University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust, led by Anna Murphy, consultant respiratory pharmacist.

The NHS spends just under £1bn a year on inhaled medicines, yet many people’s inhaler technique is so poor that they are not getting the most from their medicines. Like patients, many healthcare professionals are unsure how each device should be used.

The “Seven steps to success” inhaler reminder cards are a portable, easy-to-use reference source, providing a simple seven-step guide to achieving optimal technique for the different types of inhaler device. The resource is produced as a heavy-duty ring-bound set, with a card for each type of inhaler. Each set of cards costs £4.95 and is available at www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk/7steps.

Pharmaceutical Care Award

We are delighted that Anna Murphy, Chair of the UKCPA Respiratory Group, has won this year’s prestigious Pharmaceutical Care Award for her research project which involved designing and testing the effectiveness of a community pharmacy intervention for patients with asthma. The awards are run by The Pharmaceutical Journal and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, and sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline.

Scottish Pharmacy Forum — here we come!

The UKCPA Pain Management Group and Napp Pharmaceuticals have joined forces to run a masterclass in Scotland on 27 October.

Delegates will hear about the important contribution that pharmacists can make in the area of pain management and speakers will cover: the societal impact of pain in Scotland; mechanisms of pain transmission; pain assessment tools; and pain management strategies, including the use of opioids.

Further details are available at www.ukcpa.org/events/masterclasses.

Partnership will advance credentialing agenda

A Joint Partners Credentialing Taskgroup is gathering evidence and examples of best practice to inform the development of a professional recognition model for pharmacy. This builds on the UKCPA Critical Care Group’s work in building a critical care recognition programme.

The aforementioned JPCT consists of representatives from various pharmacy organisations, including the UKCPA, the British Oncology Pharmacy Association, the College of Mental Health Pharmacy, the HIV Pharmacy Association, the Neonatal and Paediatric Pharmacists Group and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

The aim of the JPCT is to develop a set of principles for practitioner professional recognition for advanced levels. The group will capture policy views, expertise and evidence from the partner groups. It is hoped that outputs from the project will be ready at the end of 2012.