Newsletter

Northern Lincolnshire
Area Prescribing Committee

>> ***November 2012***

Introduction

The Northern Lincolnshire Area Prescribing Committee is a newly formed committee whose main purpose is to develop a Formulary and guidelines that enhance the quality and efficiency of patient care. The Northern Lincolnshire APC held its second meeting on the 25th October 2012. Already a new medicine has been added to the Formulary, expanding the quality of care that patients throughout Northern Lincolnshire receive.

There have also been many discussions around medicines and the development of shared care guidelines. These guidelines enable patients to have a seamless transition between healthcare teams across both hospital and community settings.

Keep up to date with the APC online by visiting www.northernlincolnshireapc.nhs.uk.

Key Advancements

Prucalopride is a medicine that is used by specialists to improve the lives of patients who have been suffering with chronic constipation, where otherwise surgery would be the only available option. The use of this medicine is limited to certain patients and is only available for female patients, as per guidance published by the National Institute for Health & Clinical Excellence (NICE).

A Chairman has been elected to help lead the APC to become one of the most proactive, professional and patient focused groups in Northern Lincolnshire. The ultimate aim of the APC is to achieve unsurpassed standards of quality and patient care whereby the best possible medicines and care outcomes are achieved.

Shared Care Guidelines are being developed. These look at medicines that often require more professional input and monitoring than most conventional treatments. Having these guidelines in place ensures that each group knows exactly what is expected in the series of patient care. This leads to the best outcomes for the patient each and every time.

There are also guidelines in development that shape the transition between primary care (care in the community) and secondary care (care that mainly involves hospital and related treatments). A smooth transition when a GP refers to a specialist and when the patient is discharged is paramount.