Pharmaceutical Reform
A new level of medication care and safety

A Summary for Community Pharmacists

Objectives

• By the end of this session you will be able to:
  – Explain the benefits of Pharmaceutical Reform for patients/customers
  – Recognise a PBS claimable hospital prescription
  – Locate the information required to dispense a PBS hospital prescription correctly
Overview

- Commences in 2011 in Tasmanian acute public hospitals
- Aims to improve medication management during and after a hospital admission
- Two components:
  - Delivery of additional medication services as outlined in the Australian Pharmaceutical Advisory Council (APAC) Guidelines
  - Access to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)

Support

Tasmanian branches of:
- Pharmaceutical Society of Australia
- The Pharmacy Guild of Australia
- GP Tasmania
What will change

• Old System
  – 3-7 days supply of medication on discharge
  – Inconsistent communication

• New System
  – PBS quantities for outpatients and on discharge
  – The PBS co-payment is applied to each item supplied
  – Improved medication services (as outlined by the APAC guidelines)

Benefits to Patients

• PBS quantity of medications on discharge
  – Reducing urgency to see GP after discharge just to obtain prescriptions

• Reducing patient confusion regarding the quantity of medications

• Patients gain a better understanding of their medications
What will change - benefits to community healthcare providers

- What community pharmacists will notice:
  - More requests from hospital pharmacists to confirm patient medication histories
  - Fewer requests for “owing” prescriptions or emergency supply from patients who have run out of medication
  - Fewer medication errors on transfer from hospital to community and better documentation and communication of medication related information
  - Patients who have a better understanding of their medications

Hospital scripts in the community setting

- Most hospital generated PBS prescriptions will be dispensed by the hospital pharmacy department
Hospital scripts in the community setting

- Hospital PBS prescriptions may be presented to community pharmacy when:
  - An item is out of stock in the hospital
  - The hospital pharmacy does not stock the item
  - The patient is receiving community based DAA
  - The patient is returning to a nursing home that has a supply contract with a community pharmacy
  - When there is an urgent need to discharge the patient outside of pharmacy opening hours

Hospital PBS Prescriptions

- The form is a triplicate
- Only the two top copies are required for dispensing
  - Patient or pharmacist copy and
  - Medicare Australia / DVA copy
- More than one authority can be written on the same prescription form
Hospital PBS Prescriptions

Dispensing a Hospital PBS Prescription
Prescriber Eligibility

• All hospital doctors will be issued with prescriber numbers

• Prescriber stamps – in some locations

• What do I do if?
  – The prescriber number is not on the prescription?
  – The doctor doesn’t have a prescriber number or it cannot be obtained?

Supply Column

• Not all items on a hospital PBS prescription are intended to be supplied

• The supply column indicates where supply is appropriate
Repeats

- Repeats on discharge will be discouraged

- Certain situations where it is appropriate
  - Acute conditions (i.e. infections requiring a course of antibiotics)
  - Authority items where repeats are unable to be cancelled
  - Extenuating circumstances

- Hospital generated PBS repeats can be dispensed by community pharmacies

Safety Net Contributions

- Hospital PBS & non PBS prescriptions count toward the PBS Safety Net

- PRFs will be generated for patients on request only
Frequently Asked Questions

• Can prescriptions generated by a general practitioner (“community prescription”) be dispensed at the hospital pharmacy department?
  No

• Will hospitals be issuing repeat supplies on discharge?
  No

• How do I claim a hospital PBS prescription?
  No change to claiming process

Frequently Asked Questions

• Is there any financial disadvantage in dispensing a hospital generated PBS prescription?
  No

• How will non-PBS items be dealt with at community pharmacies?
  Depending on cost, patients may need to get their non-PBS items from the hospital pharmacy
Job Opportunities

• Pharmaceutical Reform funds a significant number of additional hospital pharmacist positions

• Record your interest on the DHHS Employment Register or contact your local Pharmacy Department

Questions?

www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/pharmreform

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