



Learning from BCBS Medication Incidents

In June we saw 28 medication incidents reported for BCBS, 19 were external medication errors.

This month the pharmacy team wanted to share the importance of reporting adverse drug reactions via a Yellow Card Report.

Yellow Card Reporting

All healthcare professionals, parents, and caregivers can report any suspected adverse reactions to the Yellow Card Scheme, including to:

medicines

vaccines

blood factors
and
immunoglobulins

herbal medicines

homeopathic
remedies

Reporting has helped identify many new safety issues that were previously unknown until they were reported as a Yellow Card. For example:

- The reports of fires associated with emollients
- Side effects to the former obesity drug rimonabant contributed to this drug being withdrawn.

The Yellow Card Scheme can also be used to report suspected concerns about medicinal devices, defective or falsified medicines, and side effects or safety concerns about e-cigarettes or refill liquids.

If the equipment has a safety issue you should report it as soon as you can. Please do not send your device to the MHRA. Hold onto it once you have reported it. The manufacturer may need it to investigate it further.

Report using the Yellow Card app available from the [Apple App Store](#), or [Google Play Store](#). Or via the website: <https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/>. Please also follow internal processes and complete an InPhase form.

ELFT Medication Safety Page

The Trust's medicines safety page is available on the intranet:

<https://www.elft.nhs.uk/intranet/teams-support-me/pharmacy/medicines-safety>

MHRA – [Drug Safety Update](#)



Good Practice Interventions



Clare Moody (Lead Pharmacy Technician) On discharge from the acute a patient was prescribed fexofenadine for itching: 120mg up to four times a day, the dispensed box was labelled 120mg twice a day. The BNF dose for urticaria is 180mg once a day (rhinitis 120mg once a day). Clare identified and raised this prescribing/dispensing error for clarification and rectification. Well done Clare!

Heidi Ratcliffe (Preregistration Pharmacy Technician) Congratulations to Heidi on receiving positive feedback from Edward Philips the Practice Development Lead Nurse. This was for delivering training to the therapy teams.

Priti Patel (Pharmacy Technician) A patient was discharged from the acute hospital and their discharge letter failed to mention their preadmission medication dulaglutide 1.5mg injection (Trulicity). The patient missed the dose for nearly three weeks in the hospital. Well done for identifying this medicines reconciliation discrepancy and getting this rectified.

Navreet Gill (Pharmacy Technician) Well done Nav on completing the ELFT Quality Improvement training.

Pharmacy Staff Update

Kat Muzyczka (Lead Pharmacy Technician) Kat left the trust in June. We wish her all the best in her new endeavours.

Heidi Ratcliffe (Preregistration Pharmacy Technician) Heidi has joined ELFT as pre-registration pharmacy technician.

Medication Shortages

Relevant new shortages highlighted by the ELFT pharmacy procurement team and updates are now located on the intranet: <https://www.elft.nhs.uk/intranet/teams-support-me/pharmacy/medicines-shortages>

Flixotide® (fluticasone) 125micrograms/dose and 250micrograms/dose Evohaler® is out of stock from late June until mid-July 2024.

Ipratropium bromide 250micrograms/1ml and 500micrograms/2ml nebuliser liquid unit dose vials limited supply until late March 2025.

Any particular concerns regarding shortages, pharmacy also have access to the Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) online medicines supply tool with up to date procurement issues. www.sps.nhs.uk

Any questions or queries please contact the pharmacy team on elft.pharmacybchs@nhs.net
<https://www.elft.nhs.uk/intranet/teams-support-me/pharmacy/pharmacy-community-health-services-chs>.