

Dementia

To improve the awareness, knowledge and understanding of dementia in Somerset's community pharmacies; and support early identification, intervention and referral of patients with dementia symptoms from community pharmacy

We had 70 Pharmacists/Technicians attend our CPPE / LPC Dementia events last quarter, with 43 interested in being involved in Somerset dementia project. We have also had bookings for Dementia friends' courses from multiples, some already delivered and some planned for the future.

Dementia is currently a high agenda item nationally-we have put together a list of ideas that you can action in your Pharmacy to help deliver the agenda. If you have any successes delivering these please share with us at the address below.

1. Pharmacies to provide local and national health promotion leaflets and posters on dementia to improve patient awareness. These are available through the health promotion ordering system.
2. Pharmacies to gather specific dementia signposting information for their area including memory cafes, local Alzheimer's Society representative, dementia friendly community groups and support groups see <http://www.dementiasomerset.org.uk/> for further information.
3. Pharmacies to identify during any Medicines Use Reviews possible medication cause to a person's cognitive impairment and refer to GP or conduct screening as appropriate
4. Pharmacies to actively target patients on dementia drugs for a Medicines Use Review and identify any dose optimisation, compliance issues or inappropriate prescribing of antipsychotics/anti-depressants. Pharmacies to use the pharmacy CCG referral form to refer identified patients to their GPs.
5. Pharmacies to trial use of the Pharmacy Dementia (cognitive) screening tool for diagnosing dementia and actively use to screen appropriate patients. –(attached screening tool)

Use of Pharmacy screening tool

- a) The Pharmacy practice undertakes to make an opportunistic offer of assessment for dementia to 'at-risk' patients and, where agreed with the patient, to provide that assessment.
- b) For the purposes of this pharmacy dementia service, 'at-risk' patients are:

- patients aged 60 and over with cardiovascular disease (CVD), stroke, peripheral vascular disease or diabetes;
 - patients aged 40 and over with Down's syndrome;
 - other patients aged 50 and over with learning disabilities;
 - Patients' with long-term neurological conditions which have a known neurodegenerative element, for example, Parkinson's disease.
- c) The assessment for dementia offered to 'at-risk' patients shall be undertaken only following establishing patient consent to an enquiry about their memory, ensure the patient signs a consent form.
- d) The assessment for dementia offered to consenting 'at-risk' patients shall be undertaken following initial questioning (through appropriate means) to establish whether there are any concerns about the attending patient's memory (pharmacist, family member, the person themselves).
- f) The assessment for dementia offered to consenting 'at-risk' patients for whom there is concern about memory (as prompted from initial questioning) shall comprise administering a more specific test (where clinically appropriate) to detect if the patient's cognitive and mental state is symptomatic of any signs of dementia, (Pharmacy (cognitive) screening test).
- g) Scoring outcome of screening test -if in referral category, fill in CCG GP interface referral form with notes, (enter on Pharm Outcomes if practice has it) and send copy to GP.
- h) Follow up outcome with Primary Care Pharmacist joined to the practice within 3m of referral, to find out outcome.

Feedback numbers of screenings/ referrals and actual diagnosis to
Lynda.coles@somerset.nhs.uk

Missed the last CPPE Dementia event? And want to be involved ?---we will be running another Evening event for Pharmacists/Pre Reg or Reg techs to become accredited as a Dementia friend in the next 6 months or events are planned now in neighbouring areas Avon, Devon and Dorset. These evening sessions include a revision of CPPE Dementia focus books and an 'Alzheimer's society dementia friends' session.

Any feedback or ideas to spread Dementia awareness through are Pharmacies please feedback to Lynda Coles.