

January 2015

To All Practice Managers and GP's,

Somerset Local Pharmaceutical Committee is running a Pharmacy Memory Service in 11 local pharmacies between January and March 2015.

The principal aims of the project are:

- To offer a simple intervention to identify patients with memory and cognitive difficulties so they can be directed to their GP for further investigation.
- Provide early intervention so patients are investigated at an early stage.
- Provide the early intervention of patients to help increase the number of patients being diagnosed.
- Provide dementia medication interventions. This will help identify medications contraindicated in dementia that may cause the symptoms of dementia or exacerbate symptoms of dementia displayed by the patient. These interventions will help both patient and carer to live well with dementia.
- 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.

We will gather data to provide evidence for the value of the service and of the pharmacy interventions.

Patients will be asked "Have you been more forgetful in the last 12 months to the extent that it has affected your daily life." If the answer is yes, they will be offered the chance to have a chat with the Pharmacist.

The Pharmacist will ascertain whether the patient has a dementia diagnosis, and if not offer to complete an Abbreviated Mental Test (Cognitive Assessment). This asks a series of 11 questions that assesses patients' cognitive function. A score of 7 or below could indicate dementia. These patients' will be referred to their GP.

All patients' medication will be assessed to see if drug side effects may be the cause of reduction in memory and cognitive function and to see whether they have any problems taking their medication. The Pharmacist may highlight problem drugs and recommend changes to medication. These will be passed on to the GP.

In each case we will offer re-assurance, information and signposting to local support services.

We will also follow up after 28 days contacting patient or carer to check the outcome of the intervention. Did they see their GP, did they go to local Alzheimer's Society Group or get in touch with carers organisation and did they find it of value?

This service will result in persons living with dementia getting better access to information and support. We will identify some people living with dementia and their carers not previously known to the GP.

The participating pharmacies are:

- Acorn Pharmacy, Frome
- Alcombe Pharmacy, Minehead
- Boots, Burnham-on-Sea
- Boots, Chard
- Boots, Somerton
- Boots, South Petherton
- Bruton Pharmacy, Bruton
- Crewkerne Pharmacy, Crewkerne
- Day Lewis Pharmacy, Hendford, Yeovil
- Day Lewis Pharmacy, Wiveliscombe
- Superdrug, Bridgwater

It is possible that you will see a small number of patients present at the surgery for further investigation and recommendations of some changes to medication.

We hope you will engage with this service if and when referrals are made to your practice. If you need any more information, please don't hesitate to contact us on somersetlpc@gmail.com, or visit our website: <http://psnc.org.uk/somerset-lpc/commissioned-services/somerset-lpc-memory-service/>

Regards,

Somerset LPC.