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pharmacy

IN PRACTICE

Forward features plan for 2008

Special sections

We have begun a series of special sections within Pharmacy in Practice. Planned special sections include:

Oncology	July/August
Cardiology	June
Mental health	October
Oncology	November/December

If you wish to send contributions to or subject suggestions for these sections, please send these to the editor.

Therapeutic options series

This is a long-standing series that continues to provide evidence-based information – including clinical data, mechanisms underlying medicine actions, diagnostic techniques and cost-benefits – in key areas of therapeutics. This continues to be a popular series, edited by expert pharmacists

including Jonathan Underhill from the NPA, and it helps pharmacists to keep up-to-date with clinical and pharmaceutical knowledge. These articles are currently in progress:

1. Obesity
2. Strontium use in osteoporosis
3. Opiates for the management of non-malignant pain
4. Evaluation of the evidence for lowering intra-ocular pressure in glaucoma
5. Immunosuppressive regimens for paediatric renal transplant cases
6. Mini-series on critical appraisal skills helping pharmacists to interpret clinical data.

Supplementary prescribing series

This popular series is continuing into 2008 with a number of articles in progress covering specific therapeutic areas that will give examples of best practice and successful

supplementary prescribing practice. This includes articles on setting up an asthma clinic and independent prescribing. We will announce the various topics and dates as they become finalised.

Special features for 2008 are planned concerning:

Multiple sclerosis - management update

Psoriatic arthritis

Statins and cholesterol management

Urinary tract infection in children: diagnosis, treatment and long-term management

Ischaemic stroke (acute management)

Mini-series on dermatology including eczema, psoriasis, bacterial infections and fungal infections

Glioma management with carmustine implants and temozolomide

Pharmacy technician roles series

This is a new series that recognises the increasingly important role of technicians in pharmacy, including medicines management roles, both in primary and in secondary care. Articles are scheduled for 2008.

Medication review series

This is an important and useful series designed to help pharmacists with their expanding roles in undertaking reviews of patients' medicines. The first article explained how to carry out a medication review and successive articles include medication reviews using case studies. In 2008, further medication reviews will be conducted in a variety of settings including hospitals, primary care units and community pharmacies.

Learning points series

These are clinical papers written using case studies to illustrate clinical problems in a variety of therapy areas. They are designed to teach pharmacists how to approach the management of various conditions, how to interpret relevant clinical data and how to solve problems they encounter. Various topics are planned for 2008 including adverse drug reactions, renal disease, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and others.

Medicines partnership series

The idea behind this series is to introduce the concept of motivational interviewing as a counselling style that pharmacists can use with patients for eliciting behaviour change by helping patients explore and resolve ambivalence in their willingness to take medicines.

Basic pharmacy skills series

With the expansions in pharmacists' roles, it is important for them keep up-to-date with the basic skills required to carry out their work, such as assessing for adverse drug reactions, conducting or interpreting findings from blood tests and therapeutic drug monitoring. In response, Pharmacy in Practice has commissioned the basic pharmacy skills series. After initial articles that will cover these basic skills in monitoring and interpreting renal, hepatic and adrenal function, bone status and microbiology tests, we will look more in depth at the main systems, including cardiovascular (hypertension, heart disease, MI, heart failure, hypercholesterolaemia), gastrointestinal (dyspepsia, GORD, colitis), musculoskeletal (rheumatoid arthritis, monitoring pain) and respiratory (asthma, COPD) as well as conditions such as diabetes.

Research into practice

This is a long-standing series that is very well received by our readers in which two linked pharmacy practice research papers are reviewed and briefly summarised. They are designed to impart useful information, tips or ideas about pharmacy practice to stimulate thought and discussion among our readers.

Publication dates

Copy deadline	Publication date	Issue
2 Jan	5 Feb	Jan/Feb
15 Jan	4 Mar	March
15 Feb	2 Apr	April
14 Mar	28 Apr	May
14 Apr	27 May	June
9 Jun	29 Jul	July/Aug
14 July	26 Aug	Sept
11 Aug	23 Sep	Oct
15 Sept	25 Nov	Nov/Dec

Supplements

We publish supplements in various clinical areas that are of relevance to pharmacists – our most recent supplement was about bowel screening. The supplements are available for sponsorship. They will all follow the same format and are intended to provide clear, evidence-based information on the treatments available for the condition under review. They will include a clinical medication review of the condition and a section that covers the healthcare professional – patient partnership, written from the point of view of a patient – perhaps written by an expert patient. The disease areas that we currently have available for sponsorship are:

Asthma/COPD

Type 2 Diabetes

Osteoporosis

Novel DMARDs and their uses

If you are interested in sponsoring any of these or have an alternative suggestion and would like further information please email me at christine@medicomgroup.com. We are able to help with writing briefs for these supplements, commissioning authors and referees.

For any copy to be considered for inclusion in the issue the absolute deadline is two weeks before the publication date, because ALL material is subject to peer-review before publication.

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