


Agenda Item 6

		THE HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR LINCOLNSHIRE	
Boston Borough Council	East Lindsey District Council	City of Lincoln Council	Lincolnshire County Council
North Kesteven District Council	South Holland District Council	South Kesteven District Council	West Lindsey District Council

Open Report on behalf of United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust

Report to	Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire
Date:	21 October 2015
Subject:	Pharmacy Services at United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust

Summary:

United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust (ULHT) has robust processes in place for the delivery of Specialist Hospital Pharmacy Services, in accordance with nationally-defined Department of Health and NHS England commissioner requirements.

These processes conform to legislative requirements for the supply of medication in the Medicines Act and Misuse of Drugs Act. They also conform to Good Manufacturing Practice standards defined by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and the European Union.

The processes ensure that patients at ULHT have access to the right medication, which has been quality assured in the appropriate formulation to meet their specific clinical requirements and to deliver the right clinical outcome during their hospital stay.

Medication related delays in discharge arise because of the complex nature of medical review before the final discharge prescription is agreed to be clinically appropriate, and because of delays in transcribing information safely and accurately from the inpatient chart onto the electronic discharge document (eDD).

To reduce these delays, the Trust is implementing Constitutional Standards to ensure discharge prescriptions are delivered to pharmacy dispensaries by 3pm the day before the planned date of discharge. In addition to this, planning is also underway to develop an electronic prescribing and medicines administration system (ePMA) that will enable decisions to be taken more rapidly around discharge medication and also unify the inpatient prescription and eDD, preventing the need for written transcription.

Actions Required:

The Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire is invited:

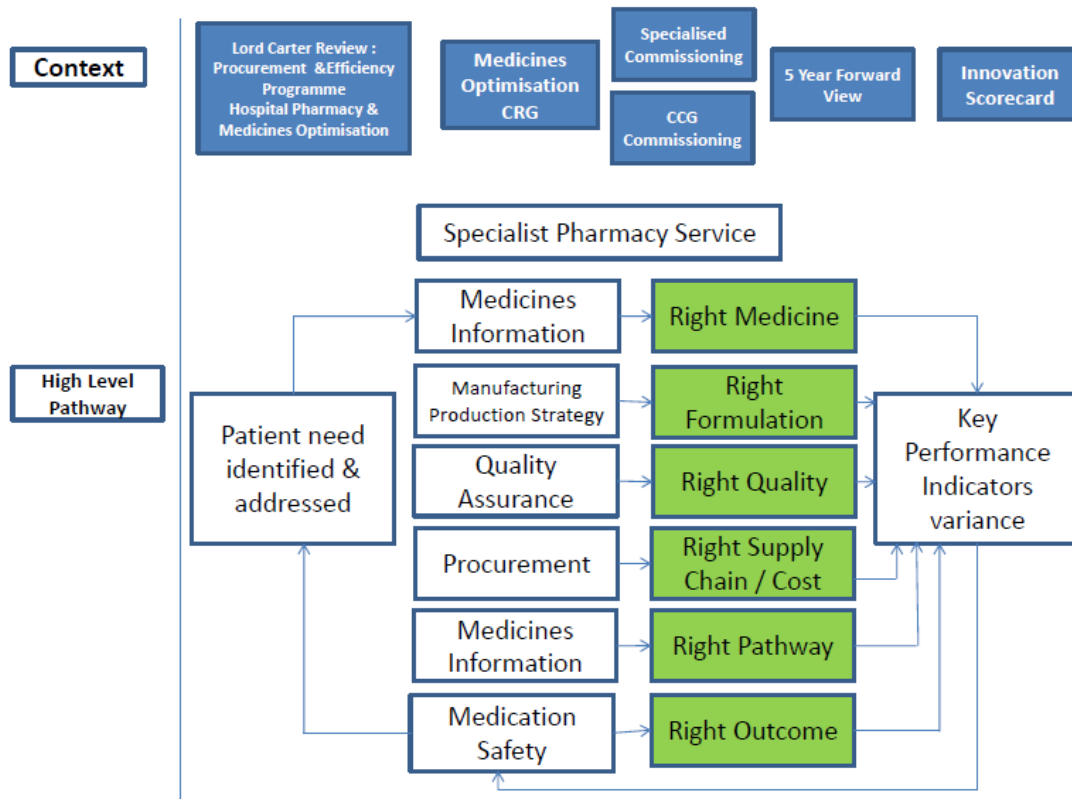
- (1) to comment on the information presented, in particular on the implementation of United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust's Constitutional Standards for discharge medication; and the processes for development and implementation of the electronic prescribing and medicines administration system (ePMA); and
- (2) to consider whether the Committee is assured that the Trust is making every effort to avoid discharges being delayed by the absence of the required medication.

1. Background

Specialist Hospital Pharmacy Services are provided by United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust (ULHT) at four sites across Lincolnshire: Lincoln County Hospital; Pilgrim Hospital Boston; Grantham and District Hospital; and Louth County Hospital.

The services are designed to provide Hospital Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation Services to meet Department of Health defined requirements for Specialist Hospital Pharmacy Services, commissioned by NHS England. These are shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Department of Health Requirements for Specialist Hospital Pharmacy and Medicines Optimisation Services in Acute Trusts



Pharmacy services at ULHT meet these commissioner requirements by providing the following services:

Medicines Information Service

The Medicines Information Service reviews evidence-based scientific guidance. This includes National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) medication technology appraisals, producing reports and recommendations to both the Drug and Therapeutics Committee and the Prescribing and Clinical Effectiveness Committee on the choice of medicines available for prescription on the hospital formulary. Disease specific algorithms of care are included within the recommendations to ensure patients have access to the right medication at all stages of disease management during their hospital stay.

Manufacturing and Production

Pharmaceutical manufacturing processes operate (under Section 10 exemption of the Medicines Act) to formulate:

- aseptically prepared sterile intravenous and intrathecal cytotoxic chemotherapy and monoclonal antibody products that are required for the treatment of cancer;
- intravenous total parenteral nutrition for patients who cannot ingest solid food; and
- intravenous antimicrobial products for the treatment of complex infections.

Quality Assurance

The Chief Pharmacist is directly accountable for ensuring that pharmacy manufacturing and production facilities meet the Good Manufacturing Practice aseptic standards defined by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and the European Union standards, enshrined in medicines legislation. Facilities are inspected and audited by Regional Quality Assurance. Any actions are reported by the Chief Pharmacist to the Chief Executive, to ensure the aseptically prepared products that patients receive are manufactured to the required quality standards. These products include unlicensed medication and clinical trial medication.

Procurement and Supply

Medication is procured directly from Pharmaceutical Wholesalers and the Pharmaceutical Industry. The Pharmacy service purchases all medication through direct contracts and via the East Midlands Pharmacy Procurement hub, to maximise procurement cost-efficiencies. The contracts are quality assured to ensure that supply chains are robust and products meet the required licensed quality standards.

Supply processes for all prescribed medicines are governed by legislation in the Medicines Act and also the Misuse of Drugs Act for Controlled Drugs. The Chief Pharmacist is directly accountable to NHS England and the Department of Health under this legislation as the Controlled Drugs Accountable Officer, for ensuring supply systems and processes comply with the law and are fit for purpose.

Pharmacy dispensaries at all sites are registered with and inspected by the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) to ensure they comply with GPhC standards. The Chief Pharmacist is registered with the GPhC as Superintendent Pharmacist for all dispensaries.

All in-patient supplies are distributed via the hospital pharmacy dispensaries. ULHT has a contract with Lloyds Pharmacy to supply medication for the majority of outpatient prescriptions, with the exception of some complex paediatric patients and cancer patients. The hospital pharmacy service provides clinical prescription checks for all cancer patients to ensure the prescription is safe before supply can be made via Lloyds.

Medication Safety

Any errors that occur as part of the processes described are transparent and reported through the Trust's Datix reporting system, with systems in place to ensure that lessons are learned and risks minimised. The Medicines Optimisation and Safety Committee meets on a monthly basis to review medication management processes to minimise risks to patients and reports to the Trust's Patient Safety Committee and Quality Governance Committee.

The processes described ensure that patients at ULHT have access to the right medication, quality assured in the appropriate formulation to meet their specific clinical requirements and to deliver the right clinical outcome during their hospital stay.

When consultants review medication and make changes to the hospital inpatient prescription, new medication prescribed is supplied from the Pharmacy to the wards and clinical areas.

Patient Discharge Arrangements

When the patient's condition has been stabilised, the consultant agrees with the patient to a discharge from hospital. At this point decisions are taken about which medication is required for the patient to take home. These decisions are often complex. This can be because of the acute nature of the patient's admission or because of the complexity of the medication with which patients are treated.

When the decision has been made about the final discharge prescription, the medication is then transcribed from the inpatient chart onto an electronic discharge document (eDD) before the patient can be discharged.

There are occasionally medication related delays in discharge due to the complex nature of medical review before the final discharge prescription is agreed to be clinically appropriate, and due to delays in transcribing information safely and accurately onto the eDD.

Action to Reduce Delays

To reduce these delays the Trust is implementing Constitutional Standards to ensure discharge prescriptions are delivered to pharmacy dispensaries by 3pm on the day before the planned date of discharge. In addition to this, planning is also underway to develop an electronic prescribing and medicines administration system (ePMA) that will enable decisions to be taken more rapidly around discharge medication and also unify the inpatient prescription and eDD, preventing the need for written transcription.

Pharmacy Opening Times

The Pharmacy departments are open 08:45 to 17:15 Monday to Friday and 09:00 to 12:00 Saturday mornings to manage planned discharges.

Any unplanned out-of-hours discharges are managed by supplying patients with FP10(HP) prescriptions which can be obtained from community pharmacies at much higher costs.

During the winter period the Pharmacy departments are open from 08:45 to 17:15 Monday to Sunday inclusive, to provide resilience to winter pressures including discharge pressures.

Staffing

In September 2015, the Trust announced the recruitment of eight new pharmacists to work at hospitals across the county. These appointments have been made following a recent recruitment initiative in the UK and abroad. All of the new pharmacists have joined the clinical teams to provide ward based clinical services to patients at Lincoln County Hospital, Pilgrim Hospital Boston, Grantham and District Hospital and Louth County Hospital. The Chief Pharmacist has stated that the eight new staff members come to the Trust highly qualified and will help the Trust to provide a dedicated clinical pharmacy service to optimise medication for their patients and improve clinical care.

2. Conclusion

The Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire is invited to comment on the information presented, in particular in relation to the implementation of United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust's Constitutional Standards for discharge medication; and the processes for development and implementation of the electronic prescribing and medicines administration system (ePMA); and to consider whether the Committee is assured that the Trust is making every effort to avoid discharges being delayed as a result of the prescribing processes at discharge not facilitating a timely supply of medication.

3. Consultation

This is not a consultation item for the Committee.

4. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

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