



Dispex
2009

Dispex 2009 Pre-Event Newsletter

May 2009

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Welcome

Welcome to this special pre-event edition of the Dispex Monthly Newsletter.

If you are not already aware, the Dispex Conference & Exhibition is being held on Saturday 16th May 2009 at the East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham. This years line-up features a variety of high profile speakers, including Mark Simmonds, MP, Shadow Minister for Health and Dr Lisa Silver. The full agenda can be found on the inside page.

The Final Nails in Your Coffin or Stepping Stones to a Brave New World?

- ETP and Nomination.
- The Health Bill.
- Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments (PNA).
- DSQS Changes.
- Competency Seven.
- The Next Governments Intentions for Dispensing Doctors.
- The New Dispensing Doctor Contract.
- The Kings Fund 18 month inquiry into GP Quality

Hear and learn all about these concerns and the latest news at Dispex 2009 at East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham on Saturday 16th May 2009. ITS STILL NOT TOO LATE TO BOOK. Visit www.dispex2009.com to register or call Jade Pirard on 01604 859000.

On the 2nd April 2009, the Department of Health published "World Class Commissioning – Improving Pharmaceutical Services".

The document makes reference to the "disparity" between standards in pharmaceutical service delivery between community pharmacy and dispensing doctor practices.

Much is made of the fact that a number of doctor practices with dispensing rights have employed pharmacists or pharmacy technicians in recent times. In essence, the report challenges the voluntary status of Dispensary Services Quality Scheme and invites the reader to conclude that a mandatory scheme would be more likely to improve standards with confirmation of standards being met found in the policy of employing pharmacists and/or pharmacy technicians in dispensing doctor dispensaries.

It is clear from this and previous documents released by the Department of Health that PCT's will be able to commission pharmaceutical service provision from dispensing doctor practices!

Like it or not dispensing doctors will be thrust in to a competition with other pharmaceutical service providers and "standards" will be a principle determining factor. Will it be "Reach the Standards or Fail"?

An understanding of the potential impact of Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment in establishing which service providers survive the process is absolutely vital.

A representative of your practice should attend **Dispex 2009** Conference and hear the expert views of our speakers in relation to this critical subject area. **Also on offer are the views and thoughts for the future from the Shadow Health Minister, Mark Simmonds MP.**

To miss the opportunity to hear the Opposition's view of the emerging threat that Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment may represent would, at best, be regrettable! Don't miss this opportunity.

To book your place at the **Dispex 2009** Conference, register at www.dispex2009.com, or complete the enclosed booking form or call Jade on 01604 859000.

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Dispex 2009 Conference Timetable

9.30 am	Opening Address	
9:40 am	Keynote Speech 1 How to design commissioning bids <i>Dr Mark Shenton</i>	
10:30 am	BREAK	
11:00 am	Keynote Speech 2 His perspective on the situation as it is now or may be in the future. <i>Mark Simmonds, MP, Shadow Minister for Health</i>	
11:45 am	COMFORT BREAK	
12:00 pm	Keynote Speech 3 Electronic Prescription Service <i>Geoff Mackay</i>	12:00 pm Audience with Mark Simmonds for Exhibitors only
12:30 pm	'Question Time' with the Dispex Advisory Panel	
1:00 pm	LUNCH	
2:00 pm	Keynote Speech 4 QOF Changes, Extended Hours & Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments <i>Dr Lisa Silver</i>	
3:00 pm	BREAK	
3:30 pm	Keynote Speech 5 Implications of the Health Bill 2009 <i>Nigel Morley MRPharmS</i>	
4:30 pm	Conference Close	

Saturday 16th May 2009
East Midlands Conference Centre
To book your place, call Jade on 01604 859000

The End of VAT Paper Returns

HMRC plan to phase out paper VAT returns with effect from 1 April 2010, when it is expected that all VAT registered businesses with an annual VAT exclusive turnover of £100,000 or more, and all newly registered businesses, whatever their turnover, will be required to submit their VAT returns online and make payments electronically.

This follows Lord Carter's recommendation that HMRC should aim for universal online submission of the main business tax returns by 2012. Paper returns will still be an option for the remaining VAT registered businesses, but this will be reviewed in the run up to 2010.

To find out more about submitting your VAT return online and how to register for and use HMRC online services, go to www.hmrc.gov.uk/vat/ret-online.htm

For details of Welsh language online services go to www.hmrc.gov.uk/cymraeg/online.htm

Prescriptions Lost in Transit Doubles Over Past Decade

The proportion of NHS prescriptions lost or stolen while in transit to NHS Prescription Services (England) has doubled over the past 10 years. The PPD were aware of 241 incidences, between April 1997 and November 2008, where batches of FP10 forms were lost in transit to NHS Prescription Services.

In response to incidents in 2008, a change was made to the Drug Tariff requiring dispatch of prescriptions to NHS Prescription Services in a secure manner that enables the delivery to be tracked and traced.

Dispex advises all its members to adopt similar measures when submitting their prescriptions to the NHS Prescription Service.

The Complete Dispenser

Some of you may have been trying to get hold of a copy of The Complete Dispenser by Dr David Roberts from a well known internet book shop. This book is available from Surelines at lower price than advertised on this particular website.

To order a copy, call Haydn on 01604 859000 or email haydn@surelines.com.

Welsh Minister Considering Setting up Pharmacy Advisory Group

In response to a question from Rhodri Glyn Thomas (Plaid Cymru) Edwina Hart the Minister for Health and Social Services said she was considering appointing a Task and Finish Group to advise her on pharmacy issues. It is known that Wales Assembly Government are very pro pharmacy.

It is essential to have some Dispex member representations in this group to ensure this is not the abolition of dispensing doctors by the back door, as has been on the Welsh agenda for many years.

No Date for any Proposed Changes in 100 Hour Application

In replying to a question, when the Government were going to publish findings of the White Paper consultation and in particular with regards to 100hour pharmacies, Lord Darzi did not give any indication as to when a response would be published.

Surelines are assisting some GPs to make 100 hour exempt applications to open pharmacies in their surgeries, with the changes in regulations this method around control of entry may no longer be available in the future. Free advice on this topic at Dispex 2009.

Dispex Advisory Panel

It is springtime once again.

The blossom is out, the dawn chorus is in full voice, & the bluebells are emerging.

It is also time for this year's Dispex annual conference in Nottingham.

This is a valuable opportunity for dispensing doctors from around the country to gather together, exchange ideas & information.

You can hear the keynote speakers discuss the main topics currently relating to dispensing practices.

You will also have the chance to meet members of the pharmaceutical industry.

By exchanging ideas & experiences we all have the opportunity of gaining knowledge & working more effectively.

So come along to Nottingham in May.

Hope to see you there!

**Article written by Dr John Bolland
Chairman of the Dispex Advisory Panel**

It's No to OTC Sales by Dispensing as well as Prescribing Practices

The Government has ruled out allowing dispensing doctors to sell OTC medicines, despite the fact that you can buy this type of medication from your petrol forecourt. According to informed services this is yet another stab in the back for GPs. This unexpected u-turn means that pharmacies in the proximity of dispensing doctor practices are no longer under threat of losing OTC sales.

If the original Pharmacy White Paper proposals had been accepted (Dispensing Doctors to get sales of P plus OTC medicines and prescribing only practices to get sales of OTC medicines) this would have had a major impact on pharmacy OTC sales.

Rejection of the proposals came to light after the opposition parties clashed on the topic. The Liberal Democrats who include the only pharmacist MP, Sandra Gidley called the proposals "a potentially dangerous move", while the

Conservatives said they contained "some logic". The DH has commented: "We currently have no plans to change the arrangements by which doctors provide medicines to patients. This includes allowing GPs to sell OTC medicines."

The NPA and Numark in response to the u-turn called the decision as evidence of government confidence in pharmacy. *Well they would say that wouldn't they.*

Dispex believes this is yet further evidence of anti-dispensing doctor discrimination in the current administration. You might think "roll on the next general election". We could not possibly comment.

The decision to rule out the OTC sales has been implicit in December's rejection of new restrictions on doctor dispensing, the DH spokesperson claimed.

VAT Changes

As expected the standard rate of VAT will be increased to 17.5% on 1st January 2010. With effect from 1st May 2009, the thresholds for registration and deregistration are increased to £68,000 and £66,000 respectively. For advice email vat@surelines.com.

DH Predicts £72m Generics Saving

Allowing generic substitution by pharmacists will save up to £72 million a year, it is reported.

A DH spokesman claimed that, if introduced in January 2010 as planned, generic substitution would cut the primary care drugs bill. This will equate to savings of £72 million per year after 2013, and an average saving of £50 million a year over the first four years of the scheme, assuming current trends and prescribing patterns.

Discussions with doctors, pharmacies and the pharmaceutical industry over the proposals have begun. These proposals to allow generic substitution were announced as part of last November's drug pricing agreement between the government and the pharmaceutical industry.

It is not possible to confirm whether or not there will be a formal consultation until the DH have completed this discussion stage.

If implemented fully the proposal would allow pharmacists to dispense a generic drug against a prescription for a branded medicine.

For example a branded prescription for Zestril could be substituted with a pack of generic Lisinopril.

It is expected that a prescriber would have to tick a box, or indicate in some other proactive way, to block such a substitution. Provision may also be made to exclude certain categories of medicines for clinical reasons in the interests of patient safety, e.g. opiates, anticonvulsants and certain modified release products. How this fits in with electronic fulfillment is uncertain. How this would fit in and be captured by ETP and EPS is also a quandary.

Final arrangements on how the system will operate still have to be decided, but will be informed by discussions with stakeholders, including doctors, pharmacies and manufacturers.

Dispex are looking to produce an informative laminate handout free for all members of when to prescribe by brand for clinical reasons. (Keep a look out for this!)

Additional Pharmacy Services Available from Surelines and their Associates

Pharmacy Project Manager - An especially skilled and experienced individual in handling the logistics of processes following obtaining consent to open a pharmacy. His activities will complement the Superintendent and the range of functions performed by Surelines Ltd and their pharmacy consultants. He will be available at Dispex 2009 to give consultancy advice

ARX Ltd - ARX are the leading European providers of automated dispensing systems. An exclusive deal has been signed with the company and Surelines Ltd customers will benefit from a significant discount. Furthermore two of Surelines pharmacy consultants have been briefed concerning the product and its benefits and will be able to provide initial advice prior to any involvement with ARX.

Goodman Bentley - The company has recently entered the healthcare market for both primary medical and pharmacy providers after many years of experience of working with security service, police and military organisations in providing alarm, security and CCTV systems.

They specialise in assessment and upgrades of existing systems and new installations, in particular "new build" projects. Their deep understanding of criminal method and evidential requirements, especially in relation to image quality are of great value.

Please call Amanda at Surelines on 01604 859000 for further information.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. We have some medication in the dispensary which was ordered on a named patient basis. This stock has not been labelled, opened or in any way tampered with and has not left the dispensary. Can we legally dispense this to another named patient?

A. [From the NHS Prescription Service] Yes as long as the original prescription isn't submitted for payment and the medication has not been labelled, tampered with or left the dispensary. The appropriate patient records and any other documents must also be amended accordingly.