

<b>NHS NORTH CENTRAL LONDON</b>	<b>BOROUGHES:</b> BARNET, CAMDEN, ENFIELD, HARINGEY, ISLINGTON  <b>WARDS:</b> ALL
<b>PRESENTATION TITLE:</b> Supply of Medication in NHS North Central London	
<b>PRESENTATION OF:</b> Dr Henrietta Hughes Acting Medical Director NHS North Central London	
<b>FOR SUBMISSION TO:</b> North Central London Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee	<b>MEETING DATE:</b> 10 September 2012
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT:</b> <p>The supply of medications can be affected by a range of issues from manufacturing by a pharmaceutical company, supply chain problems, to factors relating to the international exchange rate of Sterling. This report summarises the supply issues identified and the ways that NHS North Central London, the Department of Health, the Medicines Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and the All Party Pharmacy Group have mitigated the risks.</p> <p>The All Party Pharmacy Group published a report on 15 May 2012 summarising the current situation. Certain medications face a worldwide supply shortage due to manufacturing problems for example Immunoglobulins. The situation for other, high cost, medications which do not have manufacturing problems are related to the current exchange rate and the cost of drugs in different EU countries. Under EU legislation, free trade exists between member states and this also includes medication. Medication purchased in one EU country and exported to another is described as 'Grey Exportation' or 'Parallel Exportation'. This is commonly carried out by smaller wholesalers. The effect of the current exchange rate is that there may be a net exportation of medication leading to supply shortages in the UK.</p> <p>Manufacturers mitigate this risk by using exclusive wholesalers for distribution of medication, ensuring that the supply matches patient need. For example, the pharmacist faxing the prescription before the medication is delivered and using a quota system to reduce the movement of medications.</p> <p>The Department of Health has issued guidance to the wholesalers advising that the interests of UK patients should override all other considerations. A holder of a wholesale dealer's license could be in breach of the Regulations if they chose to trade medicines for export that were in short supply in the UK and that they could face regulatory action against their license, and/or criminal prosecution. The Department of Health have announced that the MHRA would be taking a "proactive, targeted programme of inspection of holders of wholesaler dealer licenses".</p>	

In NHS North Central London, the Medicines Management team work closely with the community pharmacists and GPs to inform of potential delays, ensure that patients are not put at risk due to supply chain issues, and assist with alternative prescriptions if required.

### **Delay of production of Flu Vaccination 2012**

Two manufacturers of the Flu Vaccine have identified delays of 2-4 weeks in the production and availability of the vaccine. The many alternative manufacturers do not report any delays to production. NHS North Central London has addressed this by communicating with the manufacturers, the Local Medical Committee and affected practices. A central supply of Flu Vaccines is available for cold chain collection by practices. Practices have come forward to offer supplies and are working in a collaborative way to address the temporary shortfall. Housebound patients will not be affected by this.

**CONTACT OFFICER:**

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:** The Committee is asked to comment on the information above and the slides.

Attachments include: PowerPoint presentation

Dr Henrietta Hughes  
Acting Medical Director  
**DATE: 30 August 2012**