

FINAL DRAFT

Drug Wastage.

A sub group of Elaine Bounds & Grace Cheese from Old Mill & Millgates Medical Practice. PPG carried out the visits and investigations.

Unknown to us at the time the PPG had already carried out a survey about the practice dispensaries in February 2013. (see result in appendix also on the PPG website.

What we did?

Asked question of our dispensaries at Old Mill gate, and District nurses
Ask question of Practice Manager , Nurse Practitioner and Practice Nurses
Looked on the web site for the practice and other practices.
Visited and interviewed (Adrian pharmacy) & (Tracy manager) from Co-Op chemist in Poringland
Collected newspaper report and other relevant information from the web site
Arrange to visit Wymondham surgery dispensary and had a meeting with Ian Websdale Prescription Manager at the surgery.
Looked at their PPG newsletter published in 2014 which Ian compiled.

How to cut down and stop the wastage of Prescription Drug by patients at the practice. .

Why should we be concerned?

As members of the public who have or are paying taxes we need to be aware of how to help to reduce the cost to the countries Health Bill when £300m the value of drugs, wasted or unused each year.

It has been suggested (from various press statement) that GP's are prescribing too many drugs and some patients are stockpiling or ordering them or not using them.

A recent research suggests; Voting results (9515 voting cast) to the Question of 'Who is responsible for 'wasting Millions' on drugs?
Patients 47.02%, Doctors 29.485, Pharmacists 7.38% not sure 16.12% (see BBC news article & reported in the BMJ)

It has been suggested that some patients are pressurising GP's on issuing antibiotics and some patients are wasting drugs or holding drugs they don't want and not using.
Some Patients are returning drugs they do not use to the surgery Dispensary or destroying drugs.
When Drugs are returned to the Surgery Dispensary they are destroyed. If they are returned to the surgery at the time they are given , then they can be used again otherwise destroyed.

We asked a number of question about the people we interviewed and collected information .

1. How do patient renew their repeat prescriptions? (see previous data)
 - By phone (according to the Care Quality Commission it is no longer recommended)
 - By Fax (number can be found on the front of the web site.)
 - By Web email on line.
 - By putting paper copy into post box at Surgery.

2. When ordering on line is there a reminder on our practice website or any comment made to the patient ? (visit practice web site) NO
(e.g. Wymondham suggest : 'Do you need all these drugs')

3. What advice do you give to patient about their drugs?
(reply; use the New medical Service, paid by NHS, for all new drugs, they may phone patient for follow up, especially if there are concern about side effects)

4. What do they do about unwanted drugs brought back by patient
(reply. When patient return drugs they don't need they dispose of them)

5. Do they advertise the wastages of drugs.
(reply; the chemist has a notice about only ordering what you need and unused drugs can be returned to the chemist for disposing.

5. Patients signing the back of the prescriptions. (expected by the chemist, so they can be sure of payment) This is not done by our Surgery dispensary. (Although most prescription have the patient's date of birth)

Trail of Prescription drugs issued

From Hospital renewal at GP practice. (if appropriate)
Some hospitals write to GP about the drugs being issued. (if appropriate)

From GP. – By paper copy

What about the Elderly, housebound, etc.
Do District Nurses or carer help? (see reply from local chemists and District Nurse)

Does the surgery help patient over the use of their drugs (see reply from local chemist)
Nurses help if they are administering the drugs.
GP may complete referral form 'Norfolk Medical Support Service'

What roll does the Practice Nurse and Nurse Practitioner (can prescribe) at the practice play in this?
Both help patients with drugs.

THE PPG need to do a message to

1. To Patients
2. To GPs
3. District Nurses
4. Nurse Practitioners, Practice Nurses
5. Dispensaries in GP practice

Suggested Outcome

Produce a newsletter like the one produced by Wymondham PPG practice. Ian Websdale has agreed to let us edit his for our use.
Remind patient they can returning drugs not being used to surgery dispensaries or local chemist. (Poringland Chemist willing to participate)

To consider using the Charity for returned drugs that has a 15 month shelf life .

Grace Cheese & Elaine Bounds. 22nd July 2015.

Refer to Surgery Website.