DHBNZ

DISTRICT HEALTH BOARDS NEW ZEALAND
INCORPORATED

Pharmacy Services Advisory Group

MINUTES

9 – 10am, Thursday 27th May 2010

By teleconference

Chair	Matthew Wood
DHB Representatives	Tim Wood; Keith Wright; Nigel Broom
Sector Representatives	Grant Short, Des Adams, Christine Mandeno, Des Bailey, Mike Seymour
Sector Services	Jacqui Hooper
PHARMAC	Rico Schoeler
Audit & Compliance	Jane Ruscoe, Fiona Wakefield, Paul Johnstone
In attendance	Janice Donaldson, Stewart Pye, DHBNZ
Apologies	Annabel Young; Simon Everitt

MINUTES

Welcome, Introductions

Minutes

Agreed minutes of 16th April 2010 meeting

Noted Tamiflu

Noted ongoing concerns expressed about level of dispensing fee for dispensing of national reserve stocks of Tamiflu [$5.30]

Noted pharmacies had earlier advised concerns around costs related to manual processing of invoicing DHBs. DHBs commissioned and circulated a guideline to assist pharmacies to set up electronic claiming to reduce processing costs to address this concern

Noted that if pharmacies believe there are additional expectations over and above dispensing and invoicing then these are local discussions

Noted Ministry of Health policy that patients are not charged a co-payment

Noted Tamiflu is not on the Pharmaceutical Schedule

Brandswitch Pool Communication Processes

Noted slight delay in getting final package approved with decision and communication likely mid-June. PHARMAC & Sector Services are sorting out payment system technicalities.

Procedures Manual

a. Date of Dispensing & Uncollected Medicines: High Level Requirements Brief

Purpose: To recommend minimum software requirements for implementation of date of dispensing and uncollected medicine processes

Discussed brief that had been prepared with input from working group members

Agreed to refer brief back to the working group to finalise, and it will then be submitted to software vendors via PSAG secretariat for advice about likely timeframe and costs of system change

Discussed payment of dispensing fee for uncollected medicines. Confirmed both dispensing fee and drug costs can be claimed if uncollected medicines process is followed, although payment system technical issues are currently preventing a dispensing fee being paid [these are being worked through]. However, if stock can be put back on the shelf it cannot be claimed. Noted the current process of preparing medicines, contacting patient twice if uncollected, creates insufficient incentive for pharmacy as it is less work, and therefore, cheaper to leave the medication sitting on the shelf until the script expiry date.

b. Amendment to 4.1.1.a. Prescriber Information in Procedures Manual, March 2010

Noted that an error has been found in the Procedures Manual:

> However, if the original prescription (or the faxed copy signed by the prescriber as above) has not been received by the pharmacy **within four years [*this has been changed to* within four weeks *in the master version and on www.dhbnz.org.nz*] of the date of the original dispensing,** reimbursement can be claimed.

Issues Register

a. Wholesale Uplift Fee residual amount payment

Noted the agreement had been to make payment on 5 or 20 July based on 28 February 2010 data. PHARMAC hopes to load the data shortly. Sector Services can make the payments with 10 working days' notice

b. Special Foods Payment Mechanism

Noted PHARMAC has been talking with wholesalers and some others about whether a payments calculation process based on identified eligible products (liquids and cans above a certain weight) would be reasonable. So far feedback has been that this approach sounds reasonable, and SAG members agreed.

Discussed whether data should be prospective (forecast/projection) or retrospective (actual data)? **Agreed** that an estimate and final washup is not preferred given the high workload to achieve this compared to the payment quantum. **Agreed** PSAG would be comfortable using a mixture of actual and forecast data on the basis that the annual total spend is reasonably predictable. **Agreed** details about the payment mechanism need to be confirmed by end June 2010.

Agreed there needs to be a robust process to re-state the purpose and communicate the process to pharmacy

Noted PHARMAC has not yet made any decisions following the Pharmaceutical Subsidy and Eligibility Review. Pharmacy will be interested to hear as soon as possible about changes that may affect them

c. Patients Near Death Protocol

Confirmed minute from 16th April 2010 PSAG meeting

> *A&C advised that a clear auditable trail of annotations on the script will support a judgment that the pharmacy has acted in good faith in dispensing the script. Green pen annotations are helpful. A&C operates a flexible grace period that is mostly dependent on the date of the script. The same principles as for uncollected medicines apply*

Agreed this information should be communicated to pharmacies by sector agents.

d. Weekly Close Control

Agreed to circulate CMDHB Close control information for feedback from PSAG members between meetings so that it can be progressed by CMDHB to final form which will be discussed at the next PSAG meeting.

General Business

There was no general business.

MEETING CLOSED: 10 AM

NEXT MEETING: 1 July 2010