

10/08/2021

Dear Extended Access/Minor Illness Service GPs

Please find below some important information regarding the Extended Access and Minor Illness Services.

Service guides

Attached are service guides for both services. Please take some time read these, even if you have been working for the service for some time, as these contain some new information about the way patients are managed. In particular, please ensure you read the following sections:

Extended Access:

- Section 2 (Working times and scheduling of appointments)
- Section 4 (Types of appointments, including a guide to effective session management)
- Section 5 (Consultation outcomes) – in particular the details about handling patients who are unable to attend a face to face appointment.
- Section 8 (Urgent referrals)

Minor Illness:

- Section 2 (Working times and scheduling of appointments)
- Section 3 – note in particular the details about urgent referrals and handling patients who are unable to attend a face to face appointment

MHRA

Not many relevant updates at present:

Chloramphenicol in infants

You may have seen recent concern over chloramphenicol drops for infant. (they contain boron and it was thought this could affect future fertility) MHRA have now looked into this and feel that at standard dose , for short periods benefit outweighs risk and so they can be used.

Please be aware that the product information is yet to change, and some pharmacists may still be cautious and so it may be best to have a proactive discussion with parents before prescribing.

Advice for healthcare professionals to provide to parents and carers:

- eye infections (conjunctivitis) are very common in babies and infants and it is important they are treated properly
- chloramphenicol eye drops are an important medicine for treating bacterial eye infections in children and have been used safely for many years
- some eye drops contain borax or boric acid, which are sources of boron – these ingredients are included as buffers to make sure the medicine is not too acidic or alkaline and is comfortable when administered to the eye
- although concerns have been raised about boron and a possible effect on future fertility, these products can be safely given to children younger than 2 years as advised by a doctor or other prescriber
- experts have advised that the amount of liquid that can be absorbed through the eyes of young children and the way these products are prescribed mean that the daily exposure to children would be well below the calculated safety limits

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1000159/July-2021-DSU-PDF.pdf

Myocarditis and pericarditis post mRNA vaccines

Advice for healthcare professionals:

- there have been extremely rare reports of myocarditis and pericarditis occurring after vaccination with COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna and Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine
- cases occurred most frequently in younger men and shortly after the second dose of the vaccine
- these are typically mild cases and individuals tend to recover within a short time following standard treatment and rest
- healthcare professionals should be alert to the signs and symptoms of myocarditis and pericarditis
- vaccinated individuals should also seek immediate medical attention should they experience new onset of chest pain, shortness of breath, palpitations or arrhythmias
- all suspected adverse reactions associated with COVID-19 vaccines should be reported to the MHRA through the [MHRA's Coronavirus Yellow Card reporting site](#)

Also a reminder to anyone who hasn't joined the whatsapp group and would like to to send me your number. It won't be heavily used but is a good way of sharing educational material and providing updates

If you would like to be added to a EH/ MI group please send me a text/ whatsapp – **07796 304969**

Bw

Rick

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