

Forthcoming Events September 2006

Nurse Led **Guest Speaker**
Junior Doctor **Oncology Teaching**

Departmental Meeting
Palliative Care Education /Training

Date	Topic	Venue	Comment
1 st	Chemotherapy: Principles & S/Es	Pinto Room, Postgraduate Centre, 9 – 10am	R. Hughes
5 th	Managing Anger Workshop	MSH Lecture Hall	Book via Anni Hall
5 th	MSH Journal Club	MSH Seminar Room 2 -3pm	Just Turn Up
7 th	NCRN update and future targets	Post Graduate Centre 4.00 – 5.00pm, 5.00 – 6.00pm	Heather Phillips
8 th	Palliative Care Study Day	Post Graduate Centre	Book via Anni Hall
8 th	Junior Doctor Training Pharmacy / Oral Chemotherapy	Pinto Room, Postgraduate Centre, 9 – 10am	K. Kantilal / K. Harrold
14 th	Volunteer Training	MSH Lecture Hall	
14 th	Oncology Nurse Development Programme	Marie Curie Lecture Room 2.15 – 3.00pm	
14 th	Clinical Governance Lung cancer audit presentation	Post Graduate Centre 4.00 – 5.00pm	Dr Carrie Corner Dr Hannah Simonds
	Clinical Cases	5.00 – 6.00pm	
15 th	Palliative Care Symposia – Hot Topics in Palliative Care Opioid Prescribing	Post Grad Centre 1230 – 1400 (lunch provided)	Book via Anni Hall
15 th	Junior Doctor Training Extravasation and lines	Pinto Room, Postgraduate Centre, 9 – 10am	K. Harrold
18 th	Taxotere in the Adjuvant Setting	Coffee Room, Chemo Suite 12.30 – 1.00pm, 1.00 – 1.30pm	Lunch Provided
19 th	MSH Journal Club	MSH Seminar Room 2 -3pm	Just Turn Up
19 th	Cancer Centre Education Meeting	Board Room, MSH 2 – 3pm	
21 st	Syringe Driver 2	MSH Lecture Hall	Book via Anni Hall
21 st	Cancer Centre Visit	Training Room – Chemotherapy Suite	Book via Anni Hall
21 st	Clinical Governance Network GI chemotherapy regimes	Post Graduate Centre 4.00 – 5.00pm	Michael Powell
	Consultants Meeting	5.00 – 6.00pm	
22 nd	Junior Doctor Training Practical palliative care	Pinto Room, Postgraduate Centre, 9 – 10am	H. Jamal
22 nd	Junior Doctor Essential Communication Skills	MSH Lecture Hall 10.00 – 12.30pm	Book via Sarah Russell
28 th	Oncology Nurse Development Programme	Marie Curie Lecture Room 2.15 – 3.00pm	
28 th	Clinical Governance Psychotherapy services	Post Graduate Centre 4.00 – 5.00pm	Rosemary Lucey
	Clinical Governance Pharmacy/Baxter Chemotherapy Issues	Post Graduate Centre 5.00 – 6.00pm	Kumud Kantilal, Cancer Centre Lead Pharmacist
29 th	Junior Doctor Training Tumour response	Pinto Room, Postgraduate Centre, 9 – 10am	J. Dickson

To add your education event to this please contact Lorraine O'Connell on EXT 4669 with your name, designation, dept, ext no, date, teaching topic & speaker, target audience and preferred date & venue choice

Welcome to the 3rd combined edition of the Monthly Cancer and Palliative Care Education Newsheet from Mount Vernon Cancer Centre and Michael Sobell House. This month we have important information about diamorphine & morphine ampoules sizes.
The Mount Vernon Cancer Centre Education Group

**CANCER & PALLIATIVE CARE EDUCATION NEWSHEET
FROM MOUNT VERNON CANCER CENTRE
AND MICHAEL SOBELL HOUSE**

**Diamorphine and Morphine
Ampoule Alert Cont:**

**Diamorphine and Morphine
Ampoule Alert**

The National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) issued an alert in May 2006 regarding the use of high dose (30mg or greater) diamorphine and morphine injections to patients who have not previously received doses of opiates.



Background:

Between 2000 and 2005, 7 case reports were published on deaths due to the administration of high dose (30mg or more) diamorphine or morphine to patients who had previously not received opiates.

Between January and October 2005, the NPSA received 16 reports of similar patient safety incidents, 2 of which resulted in death. Many of these incidents involved

- Diamorphine and morphine ampoules being selected in error, instead of lower strength ampoules - resulting in overdoses.
- 30mg or more doses of diamorphine or morphine administered to opioid naïve patients.

The major risks are:

- Similar packaging and labelling for diamorphine and morphine ampoules – 5mg, 10mg, 15mg, 20mg, 30mg products all look similar
- High and low strength ampoules stored alongside each other
- Insufficient training and understanding on the part of health care staff on risks and precautions when prescribing, dispensing and administering higher doses of diamorphine and morphine.
- Naxolone injection, an antidote to opiate respiratory depression not being easily available in the clinical areas.

Actions:

1. Risk assess your procedures for safe prescribing, labelling, supplying, storing, preparing and administering diamorphine and morphine injections
2. Know the therapeutic guidelines for administering diamorphine or morphine to opiate naïve patients, conversions from oral to subcutaneous or intravenous, rescue doses.
3. Use the pharmacy and palliative care teams for drug conversion advice
4. Check that naxolone injection is available in all relevant clinical areas - & ensure that you know how to administer this drug according to Trust guidelines.

Further implications:

The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has agreed changes to the packaging of injectable opiate products. High strength diamorphine and morphine will be separately identified with additional warning statements so that staff can tell them apart.



For More Information:

www.mmmnetwork.nhs.uk

www.npsa.nhs.uk

www.ukmi.nhs.uk

NPSA (25 May 2006) Safer Practice Notice 12 – Ensuring Safer Practice with high dose ampoules of diamorphine and morphine

Have we got your contact address wrong?

If so please contact

Sarah Russell on 01923 844567