

Health and Safety Briefing – Appendix 11

Unwanted Medicines from Patients

Accepting unwanted medicines from patients is an important service provided by this pharmacy.

However the health and safety of our staff is paramount and this guidance is intended to ensure that staff involved in the service are aware of the precautions that need to be taken when dealing with returned medicines.

- Don't put your hand into the bag or container that may be used to return the medicines, or empty it out, unless you are wearing the protective gloves provided.
- Ensure that you are wearing your staff overall or similar protection.
- Don't remove tablets from blister packs - blister strips can be removed from the outer carton.
- Don't remove liquids from bottles.
- We don't accept sharps or other clinical waste such as needles. Should any such material be found inform the pharmacist immediately.
- Should any spillages occur, clean up immediately and thoroughly using the materials provided
- Any controlled drugs must be isolated and denatured by the pharmacist using a CD denaturing kit which can be found

- You should be aware that most medicines that are returned are classified as non hazardous, however some are defined as hazardous and particular care should be taken when handling these products which are listed, and should be segregated, as set out in the SOP.
- Empty waste to examine for controlled drugs and hazardous products on the designated area which is
- Ensure that you work in a tidy and orderly manner to prevent contamination of, or mixing with, dispensary stock.
- Otherwise don't separate out medicines-they should be placed immediately in the non-hazardous waste container.
- Wash your hands thoroughly after handling waste

Any issues on the health and safety aspects of the service should be referred to the pharmacy Health and Safety lead who is