



23rd October 2007

News Release

Local People Have a Chance to see Behind the Scenes of the Local Hospital Pharmacy (as part of Ask About Medicines Week 2007)

On Thursday 8th November from 6.30pm, the James Paget University Hospital will open its doors to give local people the chance to see what goes on behind the scenes in a busy hospital pharmacy.

Helen Denny, Senior Pharmacy Technician at the James Paget University Hospital said: "Local people will have the chance to see what goes on behind the scenes in our busy hospital pharmacy. Visitors will have a full guided tour and see how medicines are dispensed and look at how we manufacture chemotherapy drugs. Most importantly, they can talk to the experts. Just phone me on 01493 452391 to book a place now."

The event is being held as part of Ask About Medicines Week 2007. Attending the open evening will give people the chance to learn how to use medicines safely and effectively. Ask About Medicines Week runs from 5th to 9th November 2007. The national initiative aims to promote better communication between people and their healthcare professionals by encouraging them to ask questions about medicines. This year the focus is on asking about medicines as we grow up.

Twenty percent of young people at school have been found to have taken medicines in any one week. In 2006, 37.6 million prescription items were dispensed in the community for children under 16 at a cost of £353.8 million. This represents an average of 3.9 items per head in the age range 0–15 years.

Helen Denny continued: "As we grow up we take more responsibility for medicine taking and our health – asking questions helps people to make informed decisions about taking medicines."

Helen is also encouraging health professionals to get involved in Ask About Medicines Week:

“It is not just the public that we want to reach. We need health professionals, whether they are nurses, pharmacists or doctors, to talk directly to children and young people, not just their parents, using terminology they can understand, and ask them what they want to know about their medicines.”

David Todd, Chief Pharmacist at JPUH, said “Less than two thirds (58%) of children and young people adhere to treatment with several studies suggesting that teenagers are less adherent than younger children. Asking questions and understanding more about medicines can help them to use medicines safely and effectively.”

The best way to find out more information about medicines is to ask the right questions. These questions (below) have been developed for people to ask health professionals about their medicines.

Questions to Ask About Your Medicines

WHAT does this medicine do?

WHY is it important that I take this medicine? Are there any other treatment options?

WHEN and how should I take it?

HOW long should I take it for?

WHAT should I be aware of when taking this medicine? *Possible risks, side effects, taking medicine with certain foods/drinks/activities, what to do if I don't feel well while taking it, how should I store it safely etc*

WHERE can I go for more information?

Notes for Editors

This is a fantastic photo opportunity – Thursday 8th November from 6.30pm in the JPUH pharmacy.

Both David Todd and Helen Denny are available for interviews.

Please advertise the booking line for pharmacy tours – 01493 452391. Visits from secondary schools are particularly welcome.

For further information please contact:

Rebecca Driver, Head of Communications, on 01493 452269

Email: rebecca.driver@jpaget.nhs.uk

Ann Filby, Foundation & Communications Manager, on 01493 452162

Email: ann.filby@jpaget.nhs.uk

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