Launch of Pilot Reporting System for Illicit Drug Reactions (RIDR)

New psychoactive substances (previously known as ‘legal highs’) pose potentially serious risks to public health. The number of new substances identified in recent years has increased rapidly, with greater availability over the internet.

A pilot scheme has been launched by the MHRA, and will run for one year, to allow healthcare professionals to report suspected adverse reactions to illicit drugs, particularly new psychoactive substances. The pilot aims to better collect data on harms from illicit drug use to support provision of clinical guidance to professionals.

The reporting site is modelled on the Yellow Card website, which many healthcare professionals will be familiar with.

More information on the pilot scheme can be found at https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/.

Yellow Card Reporting in GP Clinical System

Healthcare professionals who use Vision can now report suspected adverse reactions to MHRA directly through their clinical software.

Integration of Yellow Card reporting into clinical systems makes it easy to complete and send a Yellow Card because much of the information needed can be automatically populated from patient records. At the same time, electronic reporting provides a secure, fast, and convenient method for submitting information about suspected adverse drug reactions.

Increased numbers of Yellow Cards makes more data available to MHRA to identify possible drug safety issues promptly, and so helps to protect public health.

Diabetes Update: Lucozade® Energy is Changing

Lucozade® Energy Original now contains approximately 50% less glucose-based carbohydrates. This applies to all Lucozade® Energy flavours. New products will appear on the shelf from April 2017, so for a time, both old and new bottles and cans may be on the shelf together – remember to check the label.

Diabetes UK has provided the following advice:

If you have been advised to drink Lucozade® Energy Original when your blood glucose is low, the amount you drink will need to change. For example if you have been told you need:

- 10g of carbohydrate, you will now need 110ml
- 15g of carbohydrate, you will now need 170ml

For other flavours, the amounts to drink will be different. Always check the label before use.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information included in this newsletter is correct at the time of publication. This newsletter is not to be used for commercial purposes.