

REPORT

- Patient with regular prescription for Omeprazole 20mg is prescribed short course of Doxycycline capsules 100mg
- Three days after supply to the patient, the pharmacy is notified by the local

hospital that the patient has been admitted with a gastric bleed.

- The patient had followed the computer-generated warning on their Doxycycline dispensing label which stated “avoid iron, zinc or indigestion remedies at the same time” and stopped taking their omeprazole tablets



LEARN

- BNF warning no. 6 (which applies to Doxycycline preparations) states “do not take indigestion remedies, or medicines containing iron or zinc, 2 hours before or after you take this medicine” – the patient was not optimally counselled on this

- The electronic Patient Medication Record (PMR) system in the pharmacy uses shortened versions of BNF warnings on dispensing labels to minimise the need for multiple labels and to avoid copyright issues

SHARE

- Details of the incident were shared with the PMR system supplier, who has now changed the warning wording to “*avoid iron, zinc or indigestion remedies for 2 hrs before and 2 hrs after this medicine*”, as well as warnings no. 5 and no. 7
- Details of the incident were shared with all pharmacy teams in the company and the Community Pharmacy Patient Safety Group

ACT

- Pharmacy teams have been reminded to ensure all patients are fully counselled and advised not to stop taking any proton pump inhibitors unless specifically told to do so by their doctor
- Members of the Community Pharmacy Patient Safety Group have raised the issue of shortened warnings with their

pharmacy PMR suppliers and queried the unintended consequences of the copyright limitations with the BNF team at NHS Improvement

REVIEW

- Pharmacy teams to remain vigilant and monitor / review dispensing label warnings for all medication
- Community Pharmacy Patient Safety Group to work with NHS Improvement and PMR suppliers to call for the use of BNF warning wordings as these are written in the BNF