Local NHS launches major initiative to reduce medicine waste

Wasted medication is costing the NHS millions every year – including £4 million for the Aneurin Bevan Health Board.

A campaign aimed at reducing unnecessary waste launches on Monday 14th January 2013 across Aneurin Bevan, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University, Hywel Dda and Cardiff and Vale.

The potential money wasted on unused or partially used medicines could pay for:

- 157 more nurses
- 4,000 more drug treatment courses for Alzheimers
- 261 more drug treatment courses for breast cancer
- 1,079 more hip replacements
- 4,162 more cataract operations

We are asking GPs and pharmacists across the region to get behind the campaign in a bid to inform patients about their treatment and to help patients understand more about their medicines and the options they have.

One of the main concerns is repeat prescriptions, which are ordered and collected by patients but then not used.

It is estimated that £90 million worth of unused prescription medicines are retained in individual's homes, across the UK, at any one time. Around half of all patients do not take or use their medicines as prescribed.

This can occur for a number of reasons, including:

- Patients not believing the medicine is necessary
- Possible side effects
- Complex prescriptions that are difficult to fit into daily routines
- Choosing between medicines if patients’ feel they are taking too many
- Cutting down or stopping medicines they have been taking for a long time.

The campaign asks patients to:

- Only order what they need
- Return their unwanted medicines to their pharmacy for safe disposal
- Take their medicines with them when they go into hospital.

Repeat Prescription?

Wasted medicines waste money
Only Order What You Need

Patients not believing the medicine is necessary

www.medicinewaste.com /MedicinewasteUK

Gwrrd Iechyd Aneurin Bevan Health Board

Lundbeck

GIG Cymru NHS Wales
CHANCE TO WIN!!!

You can be in with a chance to WIN a luxury hamper for you and your team by simply displaying the campaign materials.

Send us a photo of your display to:

linda.jones25@wales.nhs.uk

or post to:

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Entries close: Friday 8th February 2013

Posters and leaflets will be provided to pharmacies and GP practices to raise awareness of medicine waste among both patients and carers.

Further information may also be found on the national website

www.medicinewaste.com