



PSSA Perspectives

Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa



The PSSA/Alpha Pharm distance learning programme 2024

The PSSA/Alpha Pharm distance learning programme continues to offer pharmacists useful, practical, up-to-date information that enables them to provide optimal pharmaceutical care to their patients.

Module 5, 2024 – Vaccine-preventable childhood illnesses

Now more than ever, ensuring that children are up to date with their routine immunisations is crucially important. This module brings you up-to-speed with the latest changes in the Expanded Programme on Immunisation in South Africa (EPI-SA). It covers how vaccines work and addresses common misconceptions. The pharmacist is ideally positioned to play a key role in promoting vaccine confidence and increasing vaccination uptake in order to help prevent and ultimately eliminate potentially dangerous infectious illnesses.

Despite the many successes of the EPI, we now see a large backslide in childhood vaccinations. In June 2024, UNICEF announced that approximately 200 000 children in South Africa are so-called “zero-dose” children, meaning that they are not fully vaccinated against any childhood illnesses at all.

This module discusses common vaccine-preventable childhood illnesses and provides an update on the revised EPI schedule and vaccines available in the private (and public) sector. It also addresses the challenges of vaccine hesitancy and emphasises the role pharmacists play as a trusted source of information in addressing vaccine hesitancy to improve immunisation coverage.

For more information about this programme, contact Gill or Glynis at Insight Medicine Information on 011 706 6939 or email: cpdalphapharm@insightmed.co.za.

The PSSA/Alpha Pharm clinical education programme 2024 for pharmacy staff

The PSSA/Alpha Pharm pharmacy staff clinical education programme continues to offer front-shop assistants or pharmacists' assistants up-to-date information that enables them to provide optimal pharmaceutical care to their patients. All pharmacy staff need to be familiar with the use of unscheduled medicines and should be reminded of when it is necessary to refer the patient to the pharmacist.

Module 5, 2024 – Nappy rash

Nappy rash is a type of dermatitis (i.e. swelling or irritation of the skin) and refers to the rash that develops on skin that is covered by a diaper (nappy). It is one of the most common skin conditions seen in infants and children, affecting more than 50% of infants at some point.

Nappy rash is most commonly caused by irritation of the skin as a result of increased moisture, prolonged contact with urine or faeces and other irritants like detergents, but there are other causes as well, such as infection or an allergy. Sometimes, illness or the early introduction of solids can also precipitate a nappy rash.

Fortunately, most cases of nappy rash are short-lived and resolve with home treatment. This module discusses the most common causes and treatment of nappy rash, as well as ways to help prevent nappy rash.

If you would like to participate in the PSSA/Alpha Pharm pharmacy staff clinical education programme, please contact Gill or Glynis for further information on 011 706 6939 or email: cpdalphapharm@insightmed.co.za.