



News release

MEDICINES BAG IS A BOON FOR NHS

A pioneering medicine bag for patients is helping to save lives and money in NHS trusts across the country.

The Patient's Medicines Bag, which is produced by Lincolnshire firm CFN Packaging, is a durable polythene bag into which patients place all their medication before going to hospital or visiting their GP.

In the absence of an effective national patients' database the bag allows health professionals to see at a glance what medicines a patient is taking. The bag's textured surface also allows doctors and nurses to write details of side effects or allergies.

"The bag is designed for patient safety because patients can often be harmed by their medication," said Mary Green, who developed the Patient's Medicines Bag for the NHS.

"If used properly the bag can save money – around £7.50 per patient per hospital admission – by reducing unnecessary repeat prescribing.

"But it can also save lives by ensuring that patients are taking the correct medicine and that doctors and nurses know what patients are taking."

The Patient's Medicines Bag has now been implemented by more than 50 NHS trusts in England and Wales.

The concept has also been introduced in Switzerland, Australia and the United States and won a UK National Patient Safety Award.

Jayson Clark, Director of CFN Packaging based in Skegness, Lincolnshire, says the Patient's Medicines Bag is an environmentally friendly product as well as being 100% British.

"All the Patient's Medicines Bags are manufactured using Biothene, a new degradable polythene which decays harmlessly within 12 to 18 months," he said.

"We're very pleased to be working with the NHS on such a simple yet effective solution to the problem of managing patient medication."

CFN Packaging now also produces an Animal Medicine Bag which comes in two sizes and which reduces the risk of pet owners taking their pet's medicine by mistake (or indeed owners giving human medication to their pets by mistake).

It also acts as an *aide-mémoire* for keeping vaccination certificates, animal passports and insurance documents.

Notes to editors

- The Patient's Medicines Bag is currently used by the following NHS Trusts:
 - Nottingham Hospital
 - Mansion House Hospital, Leicester
 - Leicester Royal Infirmary
 - Milton Keynes General Hospital
 - Salisbury District Hospital
 - Princess Royal Hospital, Farnborough
 - Macclesfield General Hospital
 - Hounslow NHS PCT Hospital
 - West Middlesex University Hospital, Isleworth
 - Islington PCT Hospital
 - Ashfield and Mansfield Hospital
 - Derby Hospital NHS
 - Nottingham City PCT
 - Gedling PCT Hospital
 - Hammersmith Hospital
 - University Of Leicester
 - Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Stanmore
 - Queens Medical Hospital, Nottingham
 - Hillingdon Hospital

- Royal Bournemouth Hospital
 - East Riding Of Yorkshire PCT
 - Countess Of Chester Hospital, Liverpool
 - St Mary's Hospital, London
- CFN Packaging is an established family firm manufacturing polythene products for the packaging trade.
- Based in Skegness, Lincolnshire, the company employs 65 people and specialises in printed plastic carrier bags and in plastic packaging for produce for the food and retail market.
- CFN Packaging is aiming to change industry attitudes by persuading its clients to switch to Biothene, a material which degrades into a non-toxic residue within 12 to 18 months.
- The company has recently invested £1 million in two polythene extruders and a new recycler and is spending £250,000 on remodelling its premises.
- For more information about the Patient's Medicines Bag visit www.medicine-bag.co.uk
- For more information about the Animal Medicine Bag visit www.pet-meds-bag.com

For more information about this press release, or to request photographs or interviews, contact:

Jez Ashberry

jez@shootingstar-pr.co.uk

Tel: 01522 528540

www.shootingstar-pr.co.uk

Mob: 07780 735071