



Care About Medicine

medicines information for staff in a social care setting

Welcome to the first issue of the **Care About Medicine** newsletter.

This newsletter aims to provide useful information and guidance about medicines that may be helpful to anyone working within a social care setting. We aim to offer help and support on any medication issue, including safe storage, handling and administration, as well as advice on documentation, policies and procedures - basically any area surrounding medicines! We can also provide advice on medication training issues and competency assessments.

Please contact us if you have any problems or issues concerning medication, for general advice on storage, policies, for medication training, or any issues relating to medication where you think we may be able to help. You can get in touch by any of the following ways:

Email: CAM@nottspct.nhs.uk

Alison Hale, Prescribing Governance Advisor – Tel. 0115 8837913 email alison.hale@nottspct.nhs.uk

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In this first issue, you will find:

- Safe handling of medication in Social care guidance
- New Wound Care ordering system
- Hospital Admissions – sending medication with the patient
- To Crush or Not to Crush?
- Helpful links

Meet the team...



Alison Hale

Andrea McGuiggan

Safe Handling of Medicines in Social Care

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (RPSGB) has published guidance on the handling of medicines in social care. This document contains guidance relating to all issues of medication in social care settings and is referenced by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) as their standardised document.

This guidance covers most areas of social care including Adult Placement, Domiciliary Care and children's Services, and the problems faced by each individual service.

Registered Care Services have already been sent information on how to access this important guidance.

You can purchase the guidance direct from RPSGB (hmsc@rpsgb.org or call 020 7572 2409), or it's also available to download free of charge from the RPSGB Website:

www.rpsgb.org/pdfs/handlingmedsocialcare.pdf

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has also produced some valuable guidance documents.

These documents can all be downloaded from their website: www.cqc.org.uk

Some examples you may find useful are:

- Medicines administration in Care Homes / Domiciliary Care
- Medicines Administration Records in Care Homes/Domiciliary Care
- Training Care Staff in Medicines Administration
- Homely remedies
- Disposal of Waste Medication

You can also download the guidance document on the Safe Handling of Controlled Drugs - does your service meet the required standards?

Wound Care Product Ordering System.

In the period 2008-2009 Nottinghamshire County PCT spent £2.6 million on wound care products, 53% of which was spent on non-formulary products. Wound care products have also been identified as an area of prescribing where a great deal of waste could be avoided. The PCT in consultation with wound care specialists has devised a new wound care product order form. **Homes providing nursing care will need to use this form to order any wound care products for their residents / patients.** For residential care, the community and district nursing teams will continue to request dressings. Homes registered with nursing care will find the order form enclosed along with an introductory letter and information sheet explaining about the new system. All GP surgeries within the county are aware of the new forms.

Points to Remember – No 1

It is illegal for any item PRESCRIBED for an individual patient or resident to be used for another person, even if it is the same product. This applies to all medication, wound care products, SIP feeds and any external applications such as creams and lotions. Any unused prescribed item must be returned to the issuing pharmacy for destruction.

Hospital Admissions – does the medication go as well?

The answer is yes, but not if it is in pre-filled blister packs. **Any medication that is in its original container should accompany the patient into hospital e.g. liquids, inhalers, eye drops etc..., along with a complete list of ALL CURRENT medication preferably in the form of a photocopy of the most recent MAR chart(s).** During the stay, this medication may be used for the patient whilst on the ward. Patients will usually be discharged from hospital with a supply of up to 28 days of medicine (exceptions apply for example certain antibiotics, inhalers or anticoagulants) normally in individual packaging, not in a blister pack. You may find that the patient has a mixture of both their own medication and new hospital issue. All medication should be checked with the discharge letter, or if this is not available with the patients GP to confirm that the correct drug and dose is recorded in the care plan.

To Crush or NOT to Crush....!

Medication can come in many forms as we all know, including dispersible tablets, liquids and powders, but what do you do if a patient is prescribed a medicine that is only available in a solid tablet form and they just cannot swallow it? NHS Nottinghamshire County has provided a guide to crushing tablets or opening hard capsules, which can be found enclosed with this newsletter.

REMEMBER!! not all medicines can be given in this way - Always check with your pharmacist beforehand if a tablet is suitable for dispersing / crushing or a capsule suitable for opening

Helpful links

The following websites can provide information for carers and service users:

For what's happening within the county, visit the NHS Nottinghamshire County website:

www.nottspct.nhs.uk

For information on medication issues, a dedicated website for Community Pharmacies with specific area for carers and patients:

www.nottscommunitypharmacy.nhs.uk

For advice on specific conditions visit:

www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

For the latest information and guidance for care issues:

www.cqc.org.uk

For information on drug matters, visit:

www.rpsgb.org/pdfs/handlingmedsocialcare.pdf

Tell us what you think!

Is there anything that you would like to see included in this newsletter? Do you have good ideas that you would like to pass on? Or have you any questions that you need to be answered?

We would love to hear from you, please contact us at CAM@nottspct.nhs.uk

We would like to trial sending future newsletters by email in the hope that apart from helping to save the environment, we can get the information to you more efficiently. Please send us your contact details, including email address and contact name to our address above. Thank you