

Care About Medicine

Medicines information for staff in a social care setting

Welcome to the fifth issue of **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.

Please contact us if you have any problems or issues concerning medication including safe storage, handling and administration, as well as advice on documentation, policies and procedures. We can also offer advice on medicine training issues and competency assessments.

You can get in touch by contacting:

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email: coral.osborn@mansfieldandashfieldccg.nhs.uk

Lisa Ryley - Governance & Social Care Technician Tel: 01623 673537 or
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Local NHS changes....

Following the publication of the governments NHS White Paper "Equity and Excellence- Liberating the NHS" in 2010, local NHS services have been in the process of transforming. This has included a number of changes to their roles and responsibilities.

As of the 1st April 2013, NHS Nottinghamshire County Primary Care Trust (PCT) ceased to exist. Its commissioning responsibilities transferred to either NHS England or the newly formed clinical commissioning groups (CCGs).

Nottinghamshire is now made up of 7 CCGs these include:-

NHS Nottingham City CCG replacing NHS Nottingham City PCT

NHS Mansfield and Ashfield CCG, NHS Newark and Sherwood CCG, NHS Nottingham North and East CCG, NHS Nottingham West CCG and NHS Rushcliffe CCG replacing NHS Nottinghamshire County PCT.

NHS Bassetlaw CCG replacing NHS Bassetlaw PCT

Medicines Management advice will continue to be provided by Coral Osborn, Senior Prescribing and Governance Adviser and Lisa Ryley, Governance and Social Care Technician to those homes located within the Nottinghamshire County Council boundaries.

Coral and Lisa are based in the Shared Medicines Management team at NHS Mansfield and Ashfield CCG, who provide a hosted service to all 5 Nottinghamshire CCGs and Nottinghamshire County Council.

Our contact details can be found at the top of this page.

Communication - it's that easy!

The main contributing factor to a lot of medication incidents we see is poor communication.

Good communication is the essential to ensuring medicine issues are dealt with appropriately, continuity of care and resident safety.

- Key contacts should be built with the care home, GP surgery and the community pharmacy to ensure an effective relationship is developed, allowing you to resolve any issues that arise.
- The care home manager, community pharmacist and GP surgery should develop relationships which ensure they understand each others systems, processes and needs.

Make June the month when you review how your home communicates with other health care professionals. Look at your policies and procedures, introduce a communication book, or review your communication book. Ask yourself is it doing the job it's meant to, do staff refer to it? Also update your contacts and install a notice board in your clinic rooms where staff can easily access information.





The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) offer an email update service to provide information on many different subjects. Examples include targeted healthcare professional information (for care home staff), safety alerts, messages and guidance.

Care homes do not automatically receive alerts from the MHRA. Any care homes wishing to receive these alerts need to subscribe to the MHRA's email alerting service at the following address: <http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Stayconnected/E-mailalertingservice/index.htm>

Care homes can choose their preferences from a list of subjects and can also subscribe to the MHRA Drug Safety Update newsletter.



Helpful links

The following website's can provide information for carer's and service users:

For what's happening around the county, visit the following websites:

- www.mansfieldanddashfieldccg.nhs.uk
- www.newarkandsherwood.nhs.uk
- www.nottinghamnortheastccg.nhs.uk
- www.nottinghamwestccg.nhs.uk
- www.rushcliffeccg.nhs.uk
- www.bassetlawccg.nhs.uk
- www.nottinghamcity.nhs.uk

For information on medication issues please contact your local community Pharmacy.

For advice on specific conditions visit: www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

For the latest information and guidance for care issues: www.cqc.org.uk

Carrying Forward Medication

Recent visits to care homes and home care providers and feedback from community pharmacies has highlighted that many care homes are not using the carried forward box on the MAR charts. Any 'when required' medications that are still in use and in date should be carried forward from one month to the next and the amount carried over recorded on each new months MAR chart. In these circumstances medication does not need to be returned to the pharmacy for destruction each month and a new supply requested as this is wasteful. All medication received in the home needs to be accounted for, therefore it is important to keep a record of the stock levels on the MAR chart in the boxes provided. Using the carried forward box on the MAR chart ensures it is possible to audit the quantities of medicine.

For example patient A was prescribed 56 paracetamol tablets, at the end of the month there was 35 paracetamol tablets remaining. Patient A is still to take paracetamol and the tablets are still in date so the remaining tablets can be carried over.

MEDICATION PROFILE		COMMENCING	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4
TIME-DOSE						
Paracetamol 500mg tablets 1-2 tablets to be taken up to FOUR times a day when required. Do not exceed 8 in 24 hours						
Dr Sig	Carried Forward	35				
Commenced	Route	recd.	quant.	by	returned/destroyed	quant. by

Next month, you may need to order some more paracetamol, this should be added to the paracetamol carried forward as shown.

MEDICATION PROFILE		COMMENCING	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4
TIME-DOSE						
Paracetamol 500mg tablets 1-2 tablets to be taken up to FOUR times a day when required. Do not exceed 8 in 24 hours						
Dr Sig	Carried Forward	20				
Commenced	Route	recd.	100	quant.	120	by
					returned/destroyed	quant. by

Useful Resources

Asthma and COPD are common among care home residents. Most of those with asthma or COPD use at least one inhaler type to help manage their condition.

However, inhalers are only as good as people's ability to use them properly. There are many websites offering advice on inhaler technique. The following website (in the medicine guide section) gives information on most of the different inhaler types available in the UK. This information can be used to show care workers what good technique looks like to help identify service users who have difficulties and highlight this to prescribers.

<http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/>

This information is for general guidance only. Please contact your residents GP or supplying pharmacy in the first instance with specific queries regarding any residents medications.

