

MEDICINES MATTER

MOCH TEAM NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2023

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Emollients and risk of severe and fatal burns.

This was initially published in 2008 with regards to paraffin-based emollients. Since then, it has been found that **all** emollients can pose a fire risk. This happens by transfer from the skin onto clothing, bedding, dressings or other fabrics. This then dries into the fabric and builds up over time. When dried into fabrics the emollient acts as an accelerant and if exposed to a naked flame can be easily ignited.

A [toolkit of resources](#) has been launched and is available for health care professions to support the safe use of emollients.

The full drug safety update can be found [here](#).

PRN Protocols

Medicines that are used 'when required' can be used for a range of conditions such as;

- Pain
- Nausea and vomiting
- Indigestion
- Seasonal allergies

Or often for long term conditions such as asthma where the individual may sometimes need to use a reliever inhaler. Each individual living in a Care Home who is prescribed a medication to be used when required (PRN) should have a personalised protocol to accompany each separate PRN medication. The Care Homes overarching Medicines Policy should cover PRN medicines, including the ordering, storage, administration, documentation and disposal.

Individualised PRN Protocols or PRN Care Plans should be easily accessible so that staff are able to refer to them before administering a medication. The PRN Protocol should include (but is not limited to);

- What condition the medicine is for.
- Dosing- including the maximum dose in 24 hours and minimal time between doses. Including variable dose medicines.
- Signs and symptoms-how does the individual present? Are they non-verbal, are they unable to ask?
- If multiple medicines are available for the same condition, it should be clear which order they should be offered and administered.
- What are the medicines expected to do and how you should document the outcome.
- Are there any steps to take or alternative support to give the individual before a PRN Medicine is administered.

Appropriately recording when PRN medicines are administered is incredibly important. CQC state that *'these medicines should not only be offered at medication rounds as this may not fit in with when an individual required help'*. Staff should ensure they are following the CHs administration policy on documentation when a medicine is offered. PRN medicines should be reviewed appropriately, especially if they are being required more regularly as this may suggest a change in condition.

[Link](#) to the Frimley MOCH PRN Good Practice Guidance.

Wound Care Formulary Changes – Frimley North Nursing Homes

The Wound Care contract for the ordering and delivery of wound care products which is currently in place across Berkshire (covering Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust, Berkshire West place and East Berkshire places) is being recommissioned from April 2023. We are moving to a national framework which enables products to be purchased at a competitive price.

Wound Care products will continue to be provided to Nursing Homes via CCOMs and Amcare, so little operational change should be experienced by staff.

Unfortunately, some products that are currently available on our formulary are not available within the national framework, so we have had to make some minor changes for a few of the ranges that are currently in use. These changes will come into force from April 2023.

The list below will show the existing products and the replacements that will be available. The TVN team at BHFT have approved these changes.

| Current Formulary Product | Size | Framework Alternative | Size |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Softpore | 6x7 | Leukomed | 5x7.2 |
| | 10x10 | Primapore | 8x10 |
| Clear Film | 6x7 | Hydrofilm | 6x7 |
| | 10x12 | Hydrofilm | 10x12.5 |
| | 12x12 | | |
| | 15x20 | Hydrofilm | 15x20 |
| | | Hydrofilm | 10x15 |
| Clearpore | 6x7 | Hydrofilm Plus | 5x7.2 |
| | 10x10 | Hydrofilm Plus | 9x10 |
| Scanpor Tape | 5x5m | Clinipor Tape | 1.25x5m |
| | | | |
| Irripod | 20ml x 25 | Sal-e pods | 20ml x 25 |

Information about the formulary changes will be available on CCOMs under the News tab.

If you have any problems ordering the new products contact Emma Cullen, mobile: 07984 544905

emma.cullen@convatec.com

FREE medicines training available!

Free high-quality e-learning courses from PrescQIPP available for all care home staff. Care home staff can access 'Medicines use in care homes' courses 1 and 2 by registering and accessing the course via the access code. For more information, please see links [Medicines use in care homes course 1 - Surrey Heath CCG.pdf](#) [Medicines use in care homes course 2 - Surrey Heath CCG.pdf](#)

Audit support from the Care Homes Team

We are currently working our way around to care homes to complete audit sets including;

- Medicines Management
- Warfarin
- Thickeners

By completing these audits, we are able to pick up themes within homes and this allows the support we provide to be more targeted, including our training sessions - so thank you for welcoming us in! As part of the medicines management audit, we look at medicines ordering and stock rotation. We are able to support with repeat ordering processes (including EMIS Proxy implementation) and are currently updating our '28 day cycle' resources for sharing.

Please contact us for support frimleyicb.moch@nhs.net