

MEDICINES MATTER

MOSCCH TEAM NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2024

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Change in name!

The Medicines Optimisation Care Homes (MOCH) team is now the Medicines Optimisation in Social Care and Care Homes team (MOSCCH).

Our inbox email address has now changed to frimleyicb.moscch@nhs.net, however emails that come through on the old email address will be re-directed to this new one.

Don't worry! We are still the team to contact for any queries or support regarding medication.

Coping with winter pressures

It is important that care homes prepare for upcoming winter months so that residents are kept safe, well and unnecessary hospital admissions are avoided.

Here are some tips to keep yourselves and your residents well during the winter:

- Infection control policies should be current and signed by staff to say they have read and understood the policy.
- Make sure staff and residents are familiar with good hand washing techniques. Ensure that liquid soap, disposable paper towels and alcohol-based hand gel are available and topped up.
- When coughing or sneezing cover the mouth. Used tissues should be disposed of appropriately.
- Help protect yourself, residents, families and friends by encouraging staff and residents to have their seasonal COVID-19 and Flu vaccination.
- Ensure vaccination details are recorded in the residents care plan- name of brand, batch number, expiry date and site of administration of the vaccination.
- There should be adequate supplies of PPE available for care home staff especially during an outbreak. Staff should know how to use PPE appropriately.
- If there is an outbreak in the home, please contact the Frimley ICB Infection Prevention and Control team at frimleyicb.ipcteam@nhs.net who can advise.
- If there is an outbreak in one section of the care home, be mindful the infection may spread if staff move from one section to another.
- Staying hydrated isn't only for the summer months. Make sure hot drinks are available. It keeps residents hydrated and warm and can have nutritional value.
- Encourage residents to move around if they are able to do so. Movement helps keep the blood flowing and keep the body warm.
- If your home keep homely remedies, ensure there are adequate supplies for the winter. Check expiry dates regularly.

Medicines Safety Corner- Epimax® Ointment and Epimax® Paraffin-Free Ointment



Epimax® Ointment and Epimax® Paraffin-Free Ointment are emollients used to treat eczema, psoriasis and dry skin conditions.

There have been reports of harm to the eyes if these products are used on the face. Symptoms include pain the eyes, swelling, redness or watering of the eyes and sensitivity to light.

- Epimax® Ointment and Epimax® Paraffin-Free Ointment should not be used on the face as it can cause symptoms (mentioned above) if it comes into contact with the eyes.
- Epimax® Ointment and Epimax® Paraffin-Free Ointment should only be used on the body.
- Avoid touching the eyes after applying these products.
- Ensure hands are thoroughly washed after applying Epimax® Ointment and Epimax® Paraffin-Free Ointment.
- If the product accidentally gets into the eyes, rinse well with water and seek medical advice.
- These products can cause a fire risk. Ensure a risk assessment is in place. Avoid storing these products near smoke or naked flames. Be aware that fabrics such as clothing, bedding and dressings which have been in repeated contact with these products can burn more easily.

For more information, please see the MHRA Drug Safety Update [here](#).

For NURSING HOMES! New GPG!

A new GPG, Ordering and management of wound care products can be accessed [here](#) and is available for Nursing homes who use the online ordering system CCOM's.

North East Hampshire and Farnham and Surrey Heath places have changed its ordering system from ONPOS to CCOMs for the ordering of wound care items. This change took place on the 5th of August, and a two-month communication period was undertaken.

Please only use the CCOMs system for ordering your wound care items. No other ordering system should be used, especially non-NHS ordering sites. The NHS supply chain can't guarantee you won't receive counterfeit items if you use other sites.

Contact Simon Smith, Medicines Optimisation Pharmacy Technician, (simon.smith22@nhs.net) if you need support with your CCOMs account.

Thank you all!

NHS Frimley are WINNERS! of the Care homes/domiciliary care/carer medicines optimisation category of the PrescQIPP awards 2024, with the project 'Optimising the use of thickening powders in care homes'!

Thank you to you and your staff continuously supporting us with quality improvement projects! Your dedication to the quality improvement projects leads to some award winning work which brings positive patient outcomes for Frimley and beyond! Please continue the good practice of thickener use by using our Good Practice Guidance and Thickener Record Chart which you can access [here](#).

