

MEDICINES MATTER

MOSCCH TEAM NEWSLETTER – JULY 2025

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Marvellous Medicines!

We would love to hear your thoughts on our Marvellous Medicines sessions, and ideas on any medicines topics you would like us to cover in future sessions.

We would be grateful if you could kindly fill out this short survey by clicking on the link [HERE](#). The survey should take only a few minutes.

Alternatively, you can email us in our MOSCCH inbox with your thoughts and ideas!

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Medicines Safety Corner- Acute and Time Critical Medicine

It is important that your care home has a process for obtaining acute and time-critical medications efficiently, e.g. Antibiotics and Parkinson's medication. Your care home policy should state the steps to take if a medication is unavailable due to supply issues.

If acute and time-critical medication doses are missed or delayed, it could lead to symptoms getting worse and/or a hospital admission.

Scenario:

It is late Friday afternoon, and a 77 year old resident at your care home has been seen by the out of hours doctor.

The out of hours doctor prescribed antibiotics. The antibiotic was unavailable from the Pharmacy. The resident's symptoms did not improve over the weekend and so the resident was seen by the duty doctor on Monday who prescribed a different antibiotic. The resident deteriorated and an ambulance was called. Intravenous antibiotic was administered and a catheter was inserted in hospital.

Questions:

- What does your care home policy state about obtaining acute time-critical medications?
- How does information get handed over to staff?
- Do communications get recorded in the residents care plan?
- Where possible, do staff try and obtain written confirmation of advice?
- Are staff aware of Pharmacies nearby that are open on the weekends or close at a later time, so that obtaining medication is not delayed?
- Do you know how to report on the 'Learn from patient safety events' (LFPSE) service? This service allows health and social care staff to record patient safety incidences. This can be accessed by clicking on this link [HERE](#).



Medicines Optimisation in Social Care and Care Homes Team

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Link to Good Practice Guidelines for Care Homes [HERE](#)

Frimley Health and Care



Keep Hydrated! 7 glasses a day keeps the hospital at bay!

Dehydration is more common in hot weather and can lead to urinary tract infections (UTIs) which may result in hospital admissions. Signs and symptoms of dehydration include:

- increased thirst
- dizziness or light-headedness
- headache
- tiredness
- dry mouth, lips and eyes
- passing small amounts of urine infrequently (less than three/four times a day)
- confusion



Please make sure that both staff and residents are drinking enough to stay hydrated.

Good Hydration in care homes resources can be accessed by clicking on this link [here](#) which includes resources for managing UTIs.

Exploring Access to Controlled Drugs (CDs) for Palliative and End-of-Life Care in Care Homes

The University of Cambridge and Marie Curie invite you to participate in a research study which explores how care homes in the UK access CDs such as Morphine, Oxycodone and Midazolam for managing symptoms in palliative and end of life care. It aims to understand current practices, challenges and opportunities, and your feedback will help improve policies and practices, ensuring better access to CDs and enhancing resident care.

The survey is anonymous and takes around 20 minutes to complete.

A short video outlining the purpose of the study can be watched here: <https://youtu.be/ckCT8CzM7BA>

Please click on this link [HERE](#) to access the survey. Alternatively, you can scan the QR code below which takes you to the survey. A certificate can be downloaded after completion of the survey.

For further information or if you have any queries, please contact Emyr Jones, Consultant Pharmacist.
email: Emyr.Jones3@wales.nhs.uk



Medication Training and Competency

Your care home policy should describe medicines training requirements for staff and training should be relevant to the care setting. Care homes should consider using an accredited learning provider so staff can be assessed by an external assessor.

Staff who support residents medication needs should have their competency assessed annually. The care home should have a formal process to assess competency. Competency should be assessed by the person who is competent in medicines support tasks. They will assess the knowledge, understanding and skills of staff. Always make sure staff competency records and dates of review are clearly documented.

Skills for care have some medicines management resources available for use that you can access by clicking the link [here](#).



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