

# MEDICINES MATTER

MOSCCH TEAM NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2025

## MOSCCH INBOX

[frimleyicb.moscch@nhs.net](mailto:frimleyicb.moscch@nhs.net)

## MOSCCH PHARMACISTS

Sundus Jawad- 07909 505658  
[sundus.jawad@nhs.net](mailto:sundus.jawad@nhs.net)

Sally Clarke – 07747 007934  
[sally.clarke6@nhs.net](mailto:sally.clarke6@nhs.net)

Simi Mudhar – 07425 634218  
[s.mudhar1@nhs.net](mailto:s.mudhar1@nhs.net)

Sween Dubb – 07500 784229  
[sween.dubb@nhs.net](mailto:sween.dubb@nhs.net)

## MOSCCH PHARMACY TECHNICIAN

Dhara Thacker – 07776 244842  
[dhara.thacker2@nhs.net](mailto:dhara.thacker2@nhs.net)

## Good Practice Guidances

There are a number of Good Practice Guidances available for medicines management topics such as:

- Covert Administration
- Homely remedies and self care
- Discharge queries
- Medicines errors
- PRN medication, including a template PRN protocol to adopt and adapt in your home

Plus many more!!

Please download these guidances and share with your staff by accessing [HERE](#).

## Are you ready for Winter?

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:** Make sure your infection control policy is up to date and signed by staff to say they have read and understood the policy.
- **Hand Hygiene:** Make sure staff and residents are familiar with good hand washing techniques. Always keep liquid soap, paper towels and hand gel filled up and ready to use.
- **Coughs and sneezes:** Cover the mouth when coughing or sneezing. Used tissues should be disposed of appropriately.
- **Vaccinations:** Help protect yourself, residents, families and friends by encouraging staff and residents to have their seasonal COVID-19 and Flu vaccination.
- **Records:** Ensure vaccination details are recorded in the residents care plan. This includes name of brand, batch number, expiry date and site of administration of the vaccination.
- **Outbreaks:** If there is an outbreak in the home, please contact the Frimley ICB Infection Prevention and Control team at [frimleyicb.ipcteam@nhs.net](mailto:frimleyicb.ipcteam@nhs.net) who can advise.
- **Staff movement:** 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.
- **Hydration:** Staying hydrated is important in winter too! Make sure hot drinks are available. It keeps residents hydrated and warm and can have nutritional value.
- **Keep moving!** Encourage residents to move around if they can. Movement helps keep the blood flowing and keep the body warm.
- **Homely Remedies:** Check you have adequate supplies for the winter months. Check expiry dates regularly.
- **Medication ordering:** Ensure staff are aware of upcoming Bank Holidays around the Christmas period so that medication ordering is not delayed.

## Outbreak of *Burkholderia Stabilis* in alcohol free wipes

UK Health security Agency (UKHSA) and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) have published [a joint release advising the public to stop using certain non-sterile alcohol-free wipes](#).

This advice follows a [patient safety alert](#) published in June 2025.

During investigation of an outbreak, certain wipes were found to be contaminated with *Burkholderia stabilis* which is a species of bacteria.

The following products have been found to be affected:

- ValueAid Alcohol Free Cleansing Wipes
- Microsafe Moist Wipe Alcohol Free
- Steroplast Sterowipe Alcohol Free Cleansing Wipes
- Reliwipe Alcohol Free Cleansing Wipes- however the contamination of this was deemed to be with a *Burkholderia* strain not related to the outbreak cases.

While the overall risk remains very low, it is important these types of wipes are not used for the treatment of injuries, wounds, or broken skin, and that they are not used to clean intravenous lines.

Please ensure you check first aid kits for these wipes. Alternative sterile wipes can be purchased from your supplying Pharmacy. When treating cuts and grazes, it is important to [follow NHS advice](#).

### Medicines Safety Corner- Anticoagulants/Warfarin



Anticoagulants are medicines that help prevent the blood from clotting. Warfarin is an anticoagulant. People taking warfarin need regular blood tests. These blood tests measure the International Normalised Ratio (INR) which is a measure of how fast the blood clots.

The dose of Warfarin prescribed depends on the results of the blood test and can often change. This is why Warfarin is usually prescribed 'Take as directed'.

If you have a resident prescribed Warfarin, make sure you and your staff are aware of the following:

- Dates of blood tests and how the blood tests are to be arranged.
- **The INR blood test results and the Warfarin dose should be confirmed in writing.** This could be in the persons 'yellow book' or email communication from the prescriber.
- If the Warfarin dose has changed, the eMAR/MAR chart should be updated immediately. It is good practice to ask another staff member to check this.
- Some eMAR systems allow for a second signature when administering Warfarin. It is good practice to ask another member of staff to check the dose before administration.

### New wound care ordering system for Nursing homes- HALO

From the 8th of September the wound care ordering system provider was changed from CCOMS to HALO in the Hampshire and Berkshire parts of the Frimley geography. Surrey remains on CCOMS for the time being.

Please only use the wound care system for ordering your wound care items and avoid requesting a prescription where possible.

No other ordering system should be used, especially non-NHS ordering sites. This ensures you have access to the right products.

Contact Simon Smith, Medicines Optimisation Pharmacy Technician, ([simon.smith22@nhs.net](mailto:simon.smith22@nhs.net)) if you need any support with your wound care ordering account.



Medicines Optimisation in Social Care and Care Homes Team

Frimley

[frimleyicb.moscch@nhs.net](mailto:frimleyicb.moscch@nhs.net)

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

Frimley Health and Care



## What's the difference between Covert and Overt Administration?

Residents have a right to refuse medication. When medication is refused, it is important to explore how often it is refused and the reasons of refusal.

Possible reasons why a resident may refuse medication:

- They don't like the taste or texture of the medication.
- They find it difficult to swallow the medication.
- They may have a side effect from the medication.
- They may not understand what the medication is prescribed for.
- The time of day may not be suitable for them, e.g. they may want to sleep early and therefore they may refuse night-time medication.
- They may have certain beliefs about the medication or the indication it is prescribed for.

Residents should be supported to take their medication in a person-centred way.

***If a medication is refused this does not mean care home staff should administer the medication covertly in the first instance.***

Covert administration is when medicines are administered in a way so *hidden* in food or drink **without the knowledge or consent of the resident receiving them.**

Overt administration is different to covert administration. Overt administration is the process in which the administration of medication is easily observable and clinically obvious. The medication may be added to food or drink to make it easier to take.

Covert administration should be considered as a last resort after a Mental Capacity Assessment (MCA) and best interests meeting which should involve care home staff, the prescriber, multi-disciplinary healthcare professionals, the resident Lasting Power of Attorney for health and welfare, family and/or next of kin.

The suitability, safety and efficacy of each medication must be considered for covert administration and care homes should keep records of this. A best interest decision to administer a medication covertly applies each time a new medication is added or a change is made to current medications.

## Electronic medicines administration records- eMAR's

Good record keeping is important for safe, effective and high-quality care which communicates the right information clearly to the people that need it. Many care homes now use digital systems such as eMAR's and electronic care plans.

Digital care records should be easy for staff to access and updated in a timely way.

Unfortunately, incidents do arise where there is a system failure such as loss of Wi-Fi or breakdown of computers or tablets.

Care homes need to consider how digital care records can still be accessed in the event of a system failure to ensure continuity of care.

Things to consider:

- Updating the care home policy to include information on what to do if digital care records cannot be accessed.
- Keep paper copies of MAR charts or care plans as a backup. If this option is considered, there must be a method to ensure the information remains current.
- Consider backing up records on a secure device, following your care homes policy on information governance.
- Ensure staff are trained and competent to use electronic systems appropriately and are aware of the procedure to follow if they cannot access the live digital records.