

Care About Medicine

Providing information, support & Guidance on managing medicines safely and effectively in a social care setting

Issue 14 – September 2025

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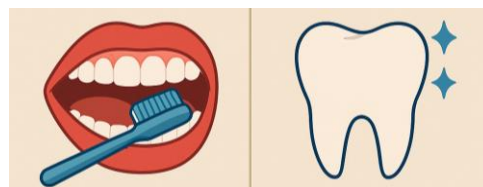
Process for reporting Non-Controlled Drug (CD) Community Pharmacy Incidents

All community pharmacy dispensing errors should be raised with the community pharmacy in the first instance to be resolved. Following this any non-CD Community Pharmacy dispensing errors or clinical issues should also be reported to the East Midlands Primary Care Team for follow up by completing the form located on the [Medicines Optimisation Team website](#) and returning it to england.eastmidspharmacy@nhs.net



Free Oral Health Training

The Nottinghamshire Oral Health Improvement Team for Community Dental Services are working in partnership with Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Council to provide free Oral Health training to professionals and volunteers working with older people and vulnerable adults. This includes, but is not restricted to, adults in residential care homes, carers or those who support within the community. There are limited dates left in 2025, these can be accessed via the [Community Dental Services – Nottingham OHI Training Page](#).



Emollients & Fire Risk - Reminder

What is the risk?

Although emollients are not flammable themselves or when on the skin, they can transfer from the skin onto clothing, bedding, dressings, and other fabrics. Once there, they can dry onto the fabric, build up over time and act as an accelerant. In the presence of a naked flame or heat source, fabric with emollient dried on it is easily ignited and will significantly reduce the time available to put out a fire before serious and fatal burns are sustained. This risk applies to all emollients, including paraffin-free emollients.



What can you do?

- Share resources and information with colleagues on the fire risk when using emollients.

- Advise service users who use emollients about the potential fire risks of smoking (or being near to people who are smoking), exposure to any open flame or other heat source.
- Ensure any advice given to service users is recorded in their care plan
- Recommend that service users change clothing and bedding regularly - preferably daily. Washing clothing or fabric at a high temperature may reduce emollient build up but not totally remove it.
- Inform GP if service user smokes and is displaying memory issues and/or confusion.
- If you think a service user would benefit from a safe & well visit by Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue service (and partners) to look at safety and risks within the home you can make a referral via their website <https://www.notts-fire.gov.uk/professional/professional-referral/>
- Report any fire incidents with emollients or other skin care products to the [Yellow Card Scheme](#).

Additional information and resources can be found via the following websites:

[Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service](#)

[GOV.UK - Safe use of emollient skin creams to treat dry skin conditions](#)

[Safe use of emollients video](#)

Monitored Dosage Systems (MDS)

The use of a Monitored Dosage System (MDS) is not considered best practice for medicines supply. Current guidance recommends the use of original packs as the gold standard. A pharmacist can provide tailored advice on suitable interventions to support individual service users in managing their medication. This may include recommending an MDS or another compliance aid where appropriate.

These aids are available free of charge to patients who meet the eligibility criteria under the Equality Act 2010, and community pharmacists are responsible for assessing eligibility. It is important to note that community pharmacies are under no obligation under the Equality Act to supply an MDS solely based on a request from a carer, particularly where paid carers are responsible for administering medication.

If a service user is assessed as ineligible, they or a relative may choose to privately fund the use of such a device, as the NHS does not routinely cover the cost of monitored dosage systems.

Further information is available at

<https://nottinghamshire.communitypharmacy.org.uk/resources/mds/>

Disposing of Sharp Bins

We have been advised that patients are no longer able to take full sharps bins to a health centre for disposal. Sharps bins must be disposed of via the local council – This is a **FREE** service.

Domestic clinical waste collections can be organised by contacting the following:

- [Nottingham City Council clinical waste collection service](#)
- [Nottingham County Council clinical waste collection service](#) (links to individual district/borough councils)

Every effort has been made to ensure the information contained in this newsletter is accurate at the time of publication.

If you need any further information on medicines management please contact us as follows:

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