

# Care About Medicine

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

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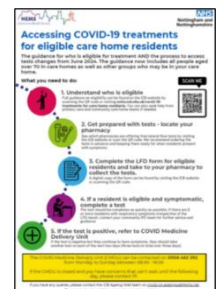
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## COVID-19 – Current Guidance on Treating Care Home Residents

For the current guidance on how to access COVID-19 treatments for your residents visit NHS Nottingham & Nottinghamshire ICB website

<https://notts.icb.nhs.uk/your-health/vaccinations/covid-19/covid-19-treatments-for-care-home-residents/>



## Medication Room



As the weather gets warmer it is important to ensure that the temperature in the medication storage room does not exceed 25°C. If temperatures are consistently above 25°C it may be time to consider extra ventilation or an air conditioning unit. A portable fan is not ideal as it doesn't cool the room and only blows around the hot air. Portable air conditioning units are available if the installation of air conditioning is not an option. Other options that can help include opening windows if it is cooler outside (be cautious of security risks), use a blind at windows to stop sunlight coming into the room (direct sunlight may create hot spots especially in the summer).

## Covert Administration

Covert administration is when medicines are given in a disguised form without the knowledge or consent of the person receiving them. Any decision to administer medicines covertly needs to be formally agreed as being in the resident's best interest. The decision needs to be made by the prescriber along with a multidisciplinary team of healthcare professionals. Care staff must not give, or make the decision to give, medicines covertly without clear authorisation and documented instructions to do so. It is important that you have the correct documentation in place when you are to administer medicines covertly. Documentation should include:



- Evidence that an assessment of mental capacity has been undertaken.
- Evidence of a best interests meeting with a multidisciplinary team.
- Evidence of why mental incapacity has been decided.
- Proposed treatment plan agreed and recorded in the service users care plan.
- Clear documentation on the MAR chart that resident is having medication covertly, which medications it applies to and how it is being disguised i.e. what food/drink added to or whether the tablet can be crushed (this should have been discussed/agreed with a pharmacist and documented).
- Dates for reviewing the decision.

## Reminder - Reporting Controlled Drug (CD) Incidents

All medication incidents relating to Controlled Drugs (CDs) need to be reported via the Controlled Drug reporting website – [www.cdreporting.co.uk](http://www.cdreporting.co.uk). Full guidance on completing the report is available on the website. If you are visiting the website for the first time you will need to register (full details on how to do this is also available). You will need the following information to completing the incident report:

- Date, time and where the incident took place
- A description of the incident and what learning has taken place
- Information on individuals involved
- Information of physical and psychological harm to person and person outcome
- Details of CD medication or device involved
- Information of other organisations that may need to be informed of incident
- Any supporting information that may be required as listed (this can include photo evidence)

The local Police will also need to be informed if any controlled drugs cannot be accounted for.

## Reminder – Patch Site Rotation

The rotation of the site where a patch is to be applied is very important. Using the same site each time can cause skin irritation. Some patches can cause a thinning of the skin and if routinely applied to the same area the rate of absorption into the bloodstream can be higher and could lead to an overdose of the medication.

Patch site should be rotated each time a patch is applied and where systems allow body maps should be used to show where the patch has been applied. Manufacturers guidance can vary for different patches, for example, Butec patches should not be applied to the same site for 3-4 weeks, Matrifen should not be applied to the same place twice in a row. Refer to the Patient Information Leaflet in the box for clarification on site rotation and application for each individual patch.



## Controlled Drug (CD) Register Entries

Further clarification has been sought from the local CD Accountable Officer regarding the colour of ink to be used in a CD register. All entries, including stock checks, should be in black or dark blue indelible ink. Red ink is not recommended as it will fade over time.

## PrescQIPP Medicines Training

PrescQIPP have now updated all 3 courses in their Managing Medicines in Care Homes training programme. The training is a very comprehensive and accredited <https://www.prescqipp.info/learning/e-learning-courses/>



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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