

Care About Medicine

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

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Single Use Devices

Single use means do not re-use. A single use device is for use on an individual service user during a single procedure and must then be discarded. It is not intended to be washed and used again, even on the same service user. Re-use can be unsafe because of the risk of cross contamination. The single use symbol, if it applies to a device e.g. a medicine pot, is a number 2 within a circle with a line crossed through it. This is usually located on the bottom of the device but may just be on the label of the packaging it came in – please check your supply.

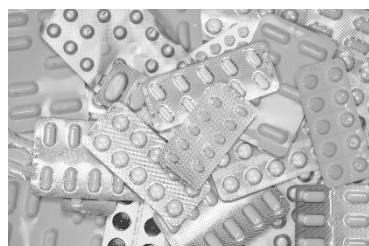


Movicol® Powder for Oral Solution – changes to shelf life once reconstituted

The shelf life of reconstituted Movicol® solution has been reduced from 24 hours to 6 hours. If not drunk straight away it should be covered and stored in the fridge (between 2-8°C) and after 6 hours, it should be discarded. The advice on length of time that reconstituted solution can be kept varies between brands (CosmoCol® – 24 hours, Laxido® - 6 hours). Always check the information leaflet in the box for manufacturers guidance.



Medication Waste



We notice occasionally when visiting care homes that there can be a large amount of wasted or unused medication. Whilst the ICB Medicines Optimisation Technicians are carrying out the annual medication audits, they will also be checking to see if you have any current issues with ordering or receiving residents' medication. Please feel free to mention any thoughts or concerns you may have if you do regularly have to return medicines to the issuing pharmacy.

Controlled Drug Registers - Reminder

Entries in the Controlled Drug (CD) register should be made in blue/black indelible ink. It is best practice that the manager or deputy manager undertake weekly stock/entry checks and record this in the CD register in black or blue ink - not red as this can fade over time and does not photocopy well if you are ever requested to do so.

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Name of service user: AVA SWEETOOTH					Medication (name strength and form): MORPHINE SULFATE 10mg/ml (1ml amp) INJECT				
Medication obtained					Medication administered or disposed of				
Date	Quantity	Issued from	Date	Time	Name of person	Amount given	Amount disposed	Given by	Witnessed by
20/01/2020	50mg	AVA SWEETOOTH						A. Staff	B. Staff
			20/01/2020	15:40	AVA SWEETOOTH	5mg	5mg	B. Staff	A. Staff
			20/01/2020	18:00	B. Staff checked and correct			C. Staff	E. Staff

Interesting Reading

The Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website has a guidance section on giving medicines with soft food or thickened fluids and offers lots of practical advice and information for care homes who have residents experiencing swallowing difficulties. The information includes why medicines are given this way i.e. those unable to swallow tablets or thin liquids, how to give medicines this way i.e. choice of food/fluid, interactions and also touches on covert administration and the legal issues surrounding this. The information can be found at:

<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/why-and-how-medicines-are-given-with-soft-food-or-thickened-fluid/>

Remember - any swallowing difficulties should first be discussed with a Health Care Professional (GP, SALT team or pharmacist) involved in the care of the resident.

Safety Pen Needles - Reminder

Safety pen needles and safety lancet devices will not routinely be prescribed on an FP10 and it will be the employers responsibility to provide them.

It is important to note that under the HSE Regulations 2013 **employers must** substitute traditional, unprotected medical sharps with a 'safer sharp' where it is reasonably practicable to do so. **One of the requirements for employers** under these regulations is to 'have effective arrangements for the safe use and disposal (including using 'safer sharps' where reasonably practicable, restricting the practice of recapping of needles and placing sharps bins close to the point of use)'. What this means in practice, is that healthcare workers who are required to administer injectables (e.g. District Nurses, and nurses working in residential and nursing homes) to patients, especially outside the clinical setting with no direct access to sharps bins, must use 'safer sharps'. Safer sharps are not required for use by patients who self-administer insulin, or carers unless the patient has a known blood born virus.

Topical Cream Storage Reminder

Medicated creams e.g. steroid creams, ibuprofen gel etc. should not be stored in the resident's room. They should be stored in a locked cupboard in the medication room. The only time they should be stored in resident's rooms is if the resident self-administers, then they can be kept in a locked drawer/cabinet in their bedroom.



Inhaler Expiry Dates

Please be aware of individual manufacturer's guidance relating to the storage and shelf-life of inhalers. Some inhalers are stored in the fridge before their first use and then after the first use are stored at room temperature and have a shortened expiry from this point. Please ensure that you check the information leaflet that comes with the product for advice on this or contact the pharmacy where it was dispensed for further guidance if unsure.

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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