

# Care About Medicine

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

**Issue 13 – May 2025**

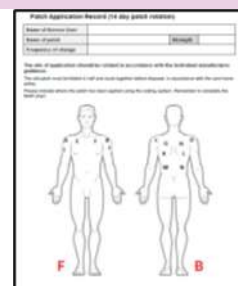
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## Rivastigmine Patch Application & Recording

It is important that rivastigmine patches are applied as per the manufacturer's guidance. Patches should not be applied to the same area of skin within a 14-day period. Switching shoulders each time is not appropriate. To help providers with the application and documenting of this we have devised a specific patch chart. This can be found within our updated guidance document which is available on the [Medicines Optimisation Team website](#).

If you would like a word template of this patch chart, please get in touch.



## Patient Information Leaflets (PILs) for people with Sight Problems

A service to support people with sight loss is provided by X-PIL at the electronic medicines compendium, which ensures that updated PILs are accessible to all people, including those with sight loss. There is a telephone number 0800 198 5000 where people can listen to or request patient information leaflets (PILs):

- in large and clear print
- in braille
- on audio CD.

This service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and the caller will need to know the following information:

- the name of the medicine
- the medicine's product code number.

The product code number is also called the licence number or marketing authorisation number. It is usually an eight or nine digit number and might have PL or EU in front of it, e.g. PL xxxxx/xxxx or EU x/xx/xxx/xxx.



## Retaining Medicines Administration Records

CQC have updated their advice on medicines records and how long they should be kept for:

*'Keep medicines administration records for at least 8 years after the person's care ended at the service. After 8 years, review the records, and if no longer needed, destroyed according to local policies'*

Medicines administration records include MAR charts, body maps, PRN protocols etc. and applies to both paper and electronic.

## Service Users with a Domiciliary Care Package – Communication Between GP Practices and Care Providers

It is recommended that when taking on new care packages, care providers contact the service users GP practice as soon as possible to inform them that they are providing support to one of their patients. It is also recommended that providers give details of the care provided including, where possible, the number of visits per day and any issues they may have with medication timings. This will enable the GP practice to support the care provider by reviewing the medication routine where there may be problems or issues, to ensure the service user receives the optimum benefit from the medicines they take.

## Red/Hospital Only Medicines

Care providers are reminded that all medicines that a service user is prescribed or taking should be recorded on the MAR chart. This includes medicines that are prescribed and supplied directly from hospital (known locally as RED medicines).

## Medicines Management Audit Visits

Our medicines management audits are undertaken every two years and we have just started our second round of visits. We will be in touch when yours is due either by email or a phone call.

Thank you for your continued commitment and eagerness to improve medicines quality and safety within social care. We look forward to seeing you again soon.



## Update to the Medication Guidance for Home Based Care & Support Providers



The 'Medication Guidance for Home Based Care & Support Providers' has recently been reviewed and updated.

The document continues to share best practice in relation to managing medicines safely. It also continues to offer a host of templates which can be adopted or used to improve current in-house templates.

The document can be accessed via the social care local guidance page of the Medicines Optimisation website:

<https://www.nottinghamshiremedicinesmanagement.nhs.uk/policies-and-documents/social-care/local-guidance-resources/>

or you can email us to request a full copy or specific templates.

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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