

Care About Medicine

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

Issue 41 - September 2025

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Receiving Medicines into Care Homes - Reminder

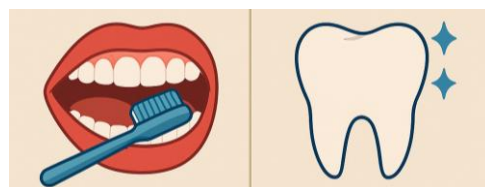
Recently we have seen an increase in the number of medicine dispensing errors that have not been identified when receiving medicines into the care home. It is important that when receiving medicines into the home that the following checks take place:

- Ensure correct residents name on the label.
- Ensure medicine name and strength on the label match that of the item received.
- Ensure clear dosage directions on the label.
- Check expiry dates and if there are any shorter expiry dates once opened highlight these to staff.
- Record quantities received.

Any issues should be raised immediately with the supplying community pharmacy.

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. Limited dates left in 2025, these can be accessed via the [Community Dental Services – Nottingham OHI Training Page](#).



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.eastmidpharmacy@nhs.net



Direction to Administer Resources – Important changes to community nursing forms

Community nursing providers in Nottingham & Nottinghamshire ICS are now using standardised forms as a written direction to administer. These are now called Direction to Administer (DA) forms and were launched formally on 9th June 2025. Four forms are now in place replacing all the versions that previously existed. These are namely, DA for injectables, suppositories etc, DA- Vit B12, DA- Anticipatory Medication and DA- Syringe driver forms. Nursing homes are also able to adopt these forms as part of their governance arrangements. More information and resources can be found on the [Area Prescribing Committee website](#). The resources include:

- [Direction to administer guidance](#) - outlines the purpose, rationale, and validity of the different forms.
- [Webinar recording](#) – A webinar explaining the background, context and implementation of the project.
- Direction to administer [SystmOne](#) and [EMIS](#) practices videos – essential viewing on the types of forms, the process and other important points for implementation.
- Written 'How to' guides for prescribers and nurses for [SystmOne practices](#) and [EMIS](#).

If you have any queries, please kindly contact nnicb-nn.medsman@nhs.net

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 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?

- Display information highlighting the fire risk associated with the use of emollients and contact with a naked flame or heat source.
- Advise residents who smoke and use emollients of the dangers. It is recommended to include in residents care plan that this conversation has taken place.
- Change clothing and bedding regularly - preferably daily – emollients soak into fabric and can become a fire hazard. Washing clothing or fabric at a high temperature may reduce emollient build up but not totally remove it.
- Speak to the fire service when they inspect your home if you have any concerns.
- Report any fire incidents with emollients or other skin care products via 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](#)

Why a CD Register is Still Essential - eMAR

In recent months, there's been some confusion in care homes about whether a Controlled Drugs (CD) register is still required when using an electronic Medication Administration Record (eMAR). Some staff have been advised that dual signatures and balance checks recorded electronically are sufficient. However, this is not the case.

As confirmed by the local Accountable Officer, care homes must maintain a CD register—either in paper or electronic form—regardless of whether they use an eMAR system. This is a legal requirement under the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001, which stipulates that all Schedule 2 CDs must be recorded in a bound register or a compliant electronic equivalent.

Technology can support safer medication practices, but it must work alongside—not replace—core legal responsibilities. If in doubt, consult your local Medicines Optimisation team for further clarification.

Vitamin D – Self-care Resources

In line with national guidance, NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB does not support the prescribing of Vitamin D for maintenance purposes or for prevention of deficiency, including for care home residents. Care homes should consider other options for providing vitamin D supplements to their eligible residents and the local guideline [Vitamin D as Self-Care for Adult Care Home Residents](#) has been produced to assist homes with this. We have also produced a [training video](#) to assist care home staff in understanding and using this guideline. If you have any questions please contact Emma at e.moncrieff@nhs.net.

Oral Nutritional Supplements (ONS) - key considerations for care homes

- Care Homes are expected to meet the nutritional needs of their residents through natural food and drink
- Care Homes should fortify food and drink as a matter of standard process
- ONS prescription should only be considered for residents when food fortification has been unsuccessful. [Food First/Food Enrichment | BAPEN](#).
- First line ONS products are powder-based such as AYMES Shake. These are to be made up with full fat milk, should be used within 24 hours and kept refrigerated until needed
- Ready to drink ONS products should not routinely be used in care homes and only under the guidance of a specialist Dietitian

A care Home menu planning resource has been produced by the British Dietetic Association (BDA) <https://www.bda.uk.com/practice-and-education/resources-for-practice/care-home-digest.html>

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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