

Caring for Care Homes

Issue 21, June 2017

Newsletter for Care Home staff, General Practitioners and Community Pharmacists

Relaunch of the Monthly Medication Ordering Process

One of the most vulnerable steps in a care home medication process is the monthly medication ordering process.



It is essential that all changes are communicated to the relevant parties and any discrepancies are checked with the prescriber. Having a robust system in place ensures that all residents receive the intended medicines at the correct dose. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure these changes are reconciled correctly. By working together we can improve the care of this vulnerable group of residents. Where possible, establishing named contacts at the care home, GP practice and pharmacies can help to build relationships and improve continuity.

We are pleased to announce we have reviewed and relaunched our monthly medication process flowcharts for care homes, GP practices and pharmacies to further support you with your embedded processes. Below are some points for consideration when dealing with the monthly medication ordering process:

Care Home

- Are stock levels always checked before ordering medication (including other storage areas like the fridge)? This ensures only items actually required are requested.
- Are quantities appropriate to the need? Would a 100g tube of cream be sufficient rather than a 500g tub? If an item is not on the repeat list (eg a new item) please add on to the bottom of the repeat slip or in the comments box online.
- Is the homely remedies list utilised? This avoids the need to request a prescription for items for occasional use (eg paracetamol for a headache).

GP Practice

- Are prescriptions only issued for items requested?
- You may wish to query why an item which is taken regularly has not been requested.
- Does the care home frequently request prescriptions in between the regular monthly order? Consider if the quantity supplied is appropriate and if an additional prescription is required to align the medication.

Pharmacy / Dispensary

- Have prescriptions been received for all residents in the care home?
- Does a care home keep returning particular medicines? Consider discussing why this is occurring with the care home to prevent future waste.
- Do you frequently receive interim prescriptions for routine medications mid cycle? Consider if the quantity prescribed is appropriate for the need, if not discuss with the care home / GP practice.

Help to reduce medicines waste – Remember the most expensive medicine is the one that is never taken. Once an item has left the premises a pharmacy is legally not allowed to reuse the item. Returns of **any type** (including SIP feeds, dressings, and appliances) must be destroyed.

Updated guidance sheets and resources coming soon

Guidance Sheets:

- 24 Oxygen v2_2017
- 25 Parkinson v2_2017

Resources:

- Communication forms: Care home to GP and GP to Care home
- Medicines Management checklist and three audits: Controlled Drugs, Storage of Medicines and Medication administration record (MAR) v3_2017

Changes in enteral feed supplies in North and East Devon area

A new contract for enteral feeding supplies means there will be a change in the prescription arrangements for enteral feeding supplies for **tube-fed** residents in the North and East Devon area.

Old arrangements: All feeds for tube-fed residents were prescribed by a GP. Feeds were supplied either by Fresenius Homecare or a community pharmacy.

New arrangements: From 12th June for residents in North and East Devon: feeds will no longer routinely be prescribed by a GP and will be supplied direct by Fresenius Homecare.

Dietitians are working to ensure that Fresenius are aware of these residents and will inform the resident's GP of the new arrangement.

For most residents, there will be no noticeable change as the feeds will be the same and will be delivered direct by Fresenius Homecare. For homes who handle their own prescriptions and send on to Fresenius, there will be no need to do this in the future, you will be able to phone through your order.

For homes who order feeds from community pharmacy, this will no longer be necessary once the resident's dietitian has contacted you to let you know that the new system has been set up. Feeds can then be ordered direct from Fresenius.

If you have any concerns about the new arrangements, please speak to the resident's dietitian.

The majority of residents in Western Devon and South Devon and Torbay already receive enteral feeds without a prescription being generated.



Potential name changes to residents' prescribed medication

The Medicines Optimisation Team work closely with GP practices to review areas of prescribing where potential savings can be made with minimal effect on residents.

Please note that in some cases when a resident is discharged from hospital their medication may not be prescribed by the usual name and so it is important that if you have any concerns or are unsure about any medications your resident is receiving please contact your pharmacist.

We hope this summary of changes is of use to you and your staff in your day to day work and will ensure you are updated when relevant.

Formulary preferred brand	Other brand names
Alzain [®] capsules	Lyrica [®] / Pregabalin capsules
Alzest [®] Transdermal Patches	Rivastigmine/ Exelon [®] Transdermal Patches
Braltus [®] Zonda [®] capsules for inhalation with Device	Spiriva [®] Handihaler [®] / Tiotropium capsules for inhalation (with or without device)
Bupeaze [®] Transdermal Patches	Buprenorphine/Transtec [®] Transdermal Patches
Butec [®] Transdermal patches	Buprenorphine/Butrans [®] Transdermal patches
DuoResp [®] Spiromax - inhaler	Symbicort [®] Turbohaler - inhaler
Ippinia [®] XL tablets	Ropinirole Prolonged-release tablets
Luventa [®] XL capsules	Galantamine Prolonged-Release capsules
Marol MR tablets	Tramadol MR tablets
Matrifen [®] Transdermal patches	Fentanyl/ Durogesic DTrans [®] Transdermal Patch
Medi Derma S [®]	Cavilon [®]
Monomil [®] MR tablet	Isosorbide mononitrate MR tablets
Neditol [®] XL capsules	Tolterodine/Detrusitol [®] MR capsules
Octasa [®] MR tablets	Asacol [®] MR tablets
Pipexus [®] MR tablets	Pramipexole MR tablets
Sastravi [®]	Stalevo [®]
Shortec [®] / Longtec [®] capsules	Oxynorm [®] / Oxycontin [®] Oxycodone
Stexerol [®] D3 tablets	Cholecalciferol/ Fultium- D3 [®]
Sukkarto [®] SR tablets	Metformin MR tablets
Tildiem [®] MR 60mg tablets	Diltiazem MR 60mg tablets
Xenidate [®] XL tablets	Methylphenidate/ Concerta [®] XL tablets
Zaluron [®] MR tablets	Quetiapine MR tablets

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