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The Care Settings Governance Team sits within the wider Medicines Management Team and aims to:

- Promote cost effective prescribing and safe use of medicines in order to prevent harms related to medicines
- Deliver a diverse range of training and education to drive system wide improvements and prevent unnecessary hospital admissions
- Work collaboratively across the system supporting the enhancement of productivity and improvement in outcomes, experience and access

Think Food Educational Events



Two Think Food educational events have been held so far this year, both in Shrewsbury and kindly supported by Coverage Care. The purpose of these events is to improve the understanding of the [Think Food Approach in care homes](#) and food fortification as well as to raise awareness of the importance of regular monitoring, care planning and implementing treatment goals. The event highlighted the relevant section of the [Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Prescribing Formulary](#) and how prescribers and other healthcare professionals identify when prescribed oral nutritional supplements are necessary. Speakers at the events included Abby Peat, Primary Care Dietitian for South-East Shropshire PCN, who set the scene with an enlightening presentation on malnutrition, and Julia Bevan from Spirit Health who gave a detailed explanation of her work around appropriate oral nutritional supplement prescribing in GP practices (both pictured above).

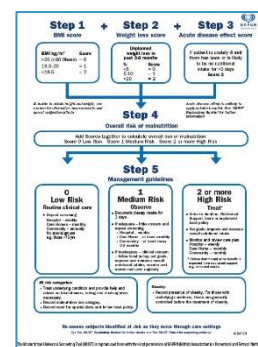
The Coverage care catering team (also pictured above) brought along tempting delights for a tasting session which was accompanied by an extremely informative talk where they shared their own ideas for personalising fortified foods and drinks while still maintaining the person's dignity.



The tasting session



Calculating MUST scores



Medication Related Incident Reporting

A massive thank you to all care settings/providers that are utilising the Ulysess medication incident reporting form to report in medication related incidents that have resulted in actual harm. The period of January – December 2024 (Q4), saw an increase in reporting with 25 incidents reported compared to 12 incidents reported for Q3.

We promised to share trends and themes as a result of reporting. Trends & themes have been highlighted around:



- Poor discharge/Transfer of care from SATH, including incorrect patients' medicines sent on discharge, lack of discharge letters and ReSPECT documentation sent on discharge and loose medicines sent on discharge not in labelled dispensing containers. All of these incidents have been reported back to the provided through the ICB Quality team and these will also be raised and discussed during the quarterly Medicines Safety Group (MSG) in April.
- Controlled drug incident relating to the incorrect measuring and identifying by care setting that there is greater volume in the original container of liquid Oxycodone (Oxynorm) resulting in a balance error in the CD register. Advice given and care home have implemented the use of bottle stoppers with compatible oral syringes for measuring doses more accurately and measuring conical for use when completing CD balance checks. More frequent CD balance checks also implemented in order to highlight balance count discrepancies earlier.

Also, thank you to those care settings/providers who have returned the quarterly no harm/near miss reporting template for the period October – December 2023 (Q3), which also saw an increase in reporting.

Trends and Themes Identified:

- Trend identified with general practice, that the pharmacy nomination is not routinely being updated, when patients are admitted to the care setting/and or registered as a new patient – resulting in chasing of prescriptions, supply issues and some administration near miss/no harm incidents. This information will form part of the Care homes ordering education and training package that is currently being developed for General Practice staff.
- Out of stock issues identified/pharmacy being unable to supply - identified that Oral Nutritional Supplements are not always required and reviews are needed for patients prescribed Oral Nutritional Supplements as well as non-formulary ONS products prescribed. Work around this is currently ongoing with external support from the Spirit Health team.

Expiry dates for medicines

A gentle reminder of the importance of being vigilant with medication expiry dates. This information is required by law and will be printed on the medicines packaging. The expiry date of medicines can change once opened. An example of this is Morphine Sulphate 10mg/5ml (Oramorph), which once opened has an expiry date of 90 days.

Ensure the date opened and the calculated expiry date is recorded on the medicine container/dispensing label if the manufacturers expiry date is affected by opening. Where possible the container of the medicine and/or the label of the medicine rather than the outer box/container should be used to record this information, as the information will still be available if the outer container becomes damaged, lost or discarded.

Information on shelf life of medicines can be found with individual medicines on the supporting information provided on the patient information leaflet (PIL) or at [Home - electronic medicines compendium \(emc\)](#)

Electronic Patient Record (EPR) programme update from SaTH – less than 2 weeks to go!

During the weekend of the 19-21 April 2024 SaTH will switch off some of its current computer-based systems and transition to the new CareFlow system.

They are working to minimise disruption during this time but ask that partners take action to prepare for the changes and familiarise themselves with what services may be affected over this weekend, and for the short term afterwards.

For the latest update from SaTH see the EPR Partner Newsletter (Issue 1) embedded here:



for the latest update regarding the digital transformation journey and the Electronic Patient Record (EPR) programme.

Updated E-learning package from PrescqiPP – Medicines use in Care Homes, Course 2

<https://store.prescqiPP.info/>

This e-learning course is designed to support care home staff involved in medicines administration and replaces the 2017 version of the course. It is the second of several bespoke e-learning packages to support care home staff involved in any aspect of medicines use. PrescQIPP is a Skills for Care Endorsed Provider for England and the course meets the level 3 medicines administration requirements in Wales. The course also supports the implementation of the recommendations in the NICE guideline on managing medicines in care homes [SC1]. You can access a sample of the training [here](#).

Please contact us if you would like any support with medicines management or with ideas/articles for future newsletters: stw.carehomeenquiries@nhs.net