



Ceri Wright
Medicines Optimisation
Care Setting Team Lead
Pharmacy Technician
&
Amy Potts
Medicines Optimisation
Care Setting Team
Pharmacy Technician

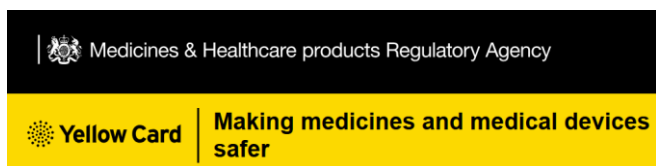
The role of the Medicines Optimisation Care Setting Team:

- Promote cost effective prescribing and safe use of medicines in order to prevent errors/incidents and harms related to medicines across Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin (STW).
- Provide medicines management-related information, advice, guidance & resources to support good quality, person centred, safe medicines management.
- Enable care setting colleagues, through programmes of training and support, to manage medicines with confidence.

Medicines Management Self-Audit – A Reminder

All care setting staff are reminded that the [Medicines Management Self-Audit](#) is still available to support you in reviewing your own medicines practices against the CQC Fundamental Standards (Regulation 12: Safe Care and Treatment). It also helps ensure you are meeting Local Authority contractual requirements. The tool has been developed jointly by the NHS Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin medicines management care setting team and both Local Authorities to strengthen safety, quality and good governance. By completing the audit, you not only support high standards of care and preparation for CQC inspections, but also contribute to wider learning, training and service improvement across the region. Thank you for your continued commitment to safe and effective medicines management.

MHRA Yellow Card Reporting



Did you know that anyone can report an issue with a medicine, vaccine, medical device (including software, apps and artificial intelligence), blood product or e-cigarette to the Yellow Card scheme.

The Yellow Card scheme is run by the [Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency \(MHRA\)](#), which safeguards medical products quality and efficacy in the United Kingdom.

Reporting makes a big difference. Yellow Card reports play a key part in keeping others safe. Your experience can ensure that all healthcare products can continue their positive impact on peoples' lives, by helping the MHRA identify new safety issues as early as possible.

You can also find examples of where reporting to the Yellow Card scheme has made a difference by viewing the MHRA Yellow Card reporting [case studies](#).

Bank Holiday Pharmacy Opening Hours – Important Information

As Bank Holidays approach, we are all reminded that pharmacy opening hours may vary and are often reduced compared with normal weekdays potentially affecting access to medicines and urgent pharmaceutical advice if not planned for in advance. Please check pharmacy opening times ahead of Bank Holidays. Up-to-date information on which pharmacies are open and when across Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin is available on our [NHS website](#): Search: Pharmacy opening times or Bank Holiday pharmacy services.

As part of the NHS [Think Which Service](#) message, we're all encouraged to consider whether a community pharmacy is the most appropriate first point of contact for certain health needs. Pharmacy Teams can advise on minor illnesses, support with urgent medicine queries and help prevent unnecessary escalation to GP or urgent care services

Key Reminder

- Check pharmacy opening hours in advance of Bank Holidays
- Plan medicines in a timely way
- Use Pharmacy First and Think Which Service where possible
- For urgent health advice when GP practices are closed, NHS 111 remains available 24/7

Baywater Healthcare – Free Oxygen Safety Training for Care Homes & Domiciliary care

"Keeping residents safe is our top priority - and oxygen therapy requires special care. We're offering FREE training to help care home teams feel confident and informed when supporting residents who use oxygen.



What's included in the training?

- Safe handling and storage of oxygen
- How to use oxygen equipment
- How to order
- Raising a concern re oxygen
- Reducing fire and safety risks
- Practical tips for day-to-day care
- Best practices to protect residents and staff

Why is this important?

Oxygen is life-saving, but it can also pose risks if not managed correctly. This training ensures your team has the knowledge and confidence to keep everyone safe.

Who should attend?

All care home staff involved in resident care or safety procedures.

How to book:

Simply contact mary.greenan@baywater.co.uk to arrange a session for your team via teams or face to face. Each session lasts 30 minutes approx.

Let's work together to make care homes safer for residents who rely on oxygen therapy."



Good Practice Guidance: Administration of Topical Preparations in Care Settings

A good practice [guide](#) is now available to support the effective administration of topical preparations in care settings. Supporting safe and effective application of topical medicines in care environments, it also supports the system wide Think Twice, Order Right campaign to drive down medicines waste.

The best practice guide provides information on:

- Storage and application of topical preparations including guidance on the use of 'Fingertip Units' (FTUs) when applying
- Fire risks associated with emollient products, including links to national guidance
- Information on steroid creams and ointments, heat rubs, creams and gels for joint pain and bath oil and additives.



SKIN CREAMS: ALERT

...and a reminder about the MHRA/National Fire Chiefs

Council skin creams alert. See their handy leaflet [here](#).



Think Vaccination

The Flu Autumn Winter vaccination programme started 1st September 2025 **and will be available until 31 March 2026.**

Flu occurs every year, usually in the winter, which is why it's sometimes called seasonal flu. It is caused by influenza viruses that infect the windpipe and lungs, and because it's caused by viruses and not bacteria, antibiotics won't treat it.

The best protection against flu is the flu vaccine. It is safe and effective and it's offered every year on the NHS to help protect people at risk of flu and its complications. Please see the page on our website [here](#) which gives further information on flu and the vaccination.

Updated CQC guidance on Medicines Administration Records in Adult Social Care

The CQC has published [updated guidance](#), reinforcing The CQC has published updated guidance reinforcing expectations for safe, accurate and person-centred medicines recording. It applies to both paper and electronic Medication Administration Records and emphasises clear documentation, staff competence, timely updates to medicine changes, and strong governance to meet Regulations 12 and 17. Care homes are encouraged to review their practices to ensure medicines are recorded and managed safely.

Think Twice – Order Right Campaign Two-minute Survey Please Help 🙏

Following the launch of our Think Twice – Order Right, medicines waste campaign in July, we are gathering feedback from people who live in the area. The [survey](#) takes around 2 minutes, and your views will help us to understand if the campaign has had an impact locally and ways in which we can improve and grow. Thank-you.

Methotrexate once-weekly for Autoimmune Diseases



We'd like to share an important safety update about methotrexate - a medicine sometimes used for autoimmune conditions. In the UK, new guidance stresses that methotrexate must only be taken once a week, not daily. Accidental daily dosing can cause serious harm. Healthcare providers are now recording the day of the week for dosing and reminding patients and carers about the correct schedule to reduce the risk of errors. Please see [here](#) for further information.

My House of Memories App

The **My House of Memories** app is a dementia-friendly digital experience co-created with people living with dementia. It features museum items and everyday objects from the past, brought to life with sounds, music and simple descriptions.



Designed to be used together with carers, family, or friends, the app helps spark conversation, support reminiscence, and create meaningful shared moments. It is an engaging way to bring the past into the present and support connection, enjoyment, and wellbeing.

New Pilot: Off-Script Wound Care in Nursing Homes

From January to March 2026, an **Off-Script Wound Care** pilot will run in 10 nursing homes. The pilot explores a new way of supplying wound care dressings. Instead of FP10 prescriptions, nursing homes will receive dressings directly from an approved supplier, using a standardised formulary. The aim is to make wound care simpler, safer, and more consistent. The pilot will explore whether this approach helps:

- Improve access to the right dressings at the right time
- Reduce variation and delays in wound care
- Improve stock control and reduce waste
- Support clear, evidence-based practice

What's included:

- An approved STW wound care formulary
- Support with set-up and stock changes
- Training for nursing home colleagues
- Clear governance and monitoring of safety, outcomes, and costs

This pilot will help shape future wound care approaches across STW.

Thank you to all our colleagues in the pilot nursing homes for your support.

Coffee-break Quote

**"Kindness is like snow.
It beautifies everything it covers."
Kahlil Gibran**



Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter