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The role of the Medicines Management Care Setting Team:

- Promote cost effective prescribing and safe use of medicines in order to prevent errors/incidents and harms related to medicines.
- 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-assessment Tool Launch



This month saw the launch of the care setting [Self-Assessment Tool](#).

After a six-month proof of concept, the Medicines

Medicines Management Self Audit in Care Settings

Team, in collaboration with Local Authorities, developed this tool to:

- *Help care settings provide information to Local Authorities for quality and governance in medicines management.*
- *Allow the Medicines Management team to identify trends to inform training and education.*
- *Monitor medicines management in your setting.*

Both Local Authorities encourage care homes to submit an **annual** audit using this tool, which will be reviewed by the Medicines Management team and forwarded to the appropriate Local Authority.

The audit can be used more frequently to confirm good practice or identify areas for improvement within your own organisation. The tool takes about an hour to complete on average.



If you are a domiciliary care provider and would like to help us in refining the tool to better suit your sector, please get in touch, we would love to hear from you.

MHRA Alert Reminder - Epimax Risk of Ocular Toxicity

Following a recent, local incident we are sharing another reminder of the [MHRA safety alert](#) regarding Epimax Ointment/Epimax Paraffin-Free Ointment and ocular toxicity. We also remind all healthcare professionals to consider the fire risks associated with all emollient products, particularly those that are paraffin-based. [MHRA Link](#). Your continued vigilance is appreciated to ensure patient safety. Please report any suspected adverse reactions or incidents involving Epimax Ointments to the Yellow Card scheme or local reporting systems.

Sharing Best Practices and Impactful Moments

We always encourage our care setting colleagues to send us examples of good practice or instances when something has worked well so we can share this with others. In this edition we are pleased to share an inspiring example from **Barclay Gardens** of how the [Aspirin use for Heart Emergencies in a Care Home](#) has been used, contributing to a positive patient outcome.

Rapid Response and Quick-Thinking Lead to Positive Outcome for Resident at Barclay Gardens in Donnington



Pictured above Tina & Gemma, team members at Barclay Gardens

Recently, night shift leader **Claire**, responded swiftly to a resident who was feeling unwell. Concerned for their health, the staff member called 111 for advice. The shift leader, who was monitoring the situation closely, performed clinical observations and, as the resident's condition

worsened, called 999 for immediate assistance.

During the 999 assessment, the call handler inquired whether the resident had access to aspirin. While the shift leader confirmed they did not, she noted that they did have 300mg aspirin kept in case of heart emergencies. Following the guidance of the call handler, aspirin was administered promptly.

Thanks to her quick thinking and fast action, having the aspirin in place for heart emergencies and administered promptly, meant that once at hospital the resident was able to receive further treatment and the result was a very positive outcome, with the resident experiencing a rapid recovery.

This situation highlights the importance of preparedness, quick thinking, and the seamless collaboration between staff and emergency services. By being proactive and following the guidance of health professionals, we can ensure the best care and outcomes for our residents.

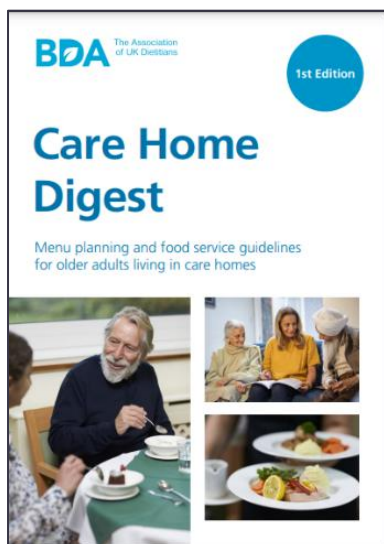
A great example from the team at Barclay Gardens of being vigilant and prepared, and working collaboratively to provide the best possible care.

Medication Incident reporting UPDATE – January 2025

The [Medication Incident Reporting for Care Settings Guidance](#) document and [step by step user guide](#) has been updated to align with a change in process led by the ICB Quality Team which now allows for **all levels** of medicines incidents to be reported via the Patient Provider Feedback (PPF) route. Now all medicines related incidents, regardless of severity, will be reported using one system (Ulysess database), resulting in a more streamlined and effective method to trend and theme incidents.

For further information or support please don't hesitate to contact us via our generic email address stw.carehomeenquiries@nhs.net or the STW ICB Quality team at quality.stwccg@nhs.net

British Dietetic Association Care Home Digest



The Food Services and Older People Specialist Groups of the BDA, in collaboration with the National Association of Care Catering, developed the first menu planning and food service guidelines for care homes.

These guidelines help care homes provide high-quality food and drink services, ensuring menus meet residents' nutritional needs while enhancing the

mealtime experience. They offer practical tools for care home managers, nursing staff, carers, and catering teams to support these goals. The full PDF printable version of the guidance can be accessed [here](#).

Administering medications from original packs

Medicines are being supplied more and more in their original packs (OPs) rather than being repackaged into monitored dosage systems (MDS). Benefits of OPs include:



- Access to patient information leaflets in each pack
- Easier identification of medicines

We have put together a list of key recommendations for consideration to support the safe use of OPs.

- Open one box at a time and keep others sealed until needed.
- Separate part-used strips to simplify stock counts. An elastic band can be used for this purpose.
- Conduct regular stock checks, at least fortnightly, with more frequent checks during the transition from MDS to OPs.
- Count high risk medications like warfarin or controlled drugs with each administration.
- Aim to administer the correct day's dose from calendar packs, triggering an earlier stock count if discrepancies arise.
- Make sure to check that all boxes are empty before discarding them.

Coffee break quote

"Remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it."

Henry Ford



Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter.

Medicines Ordering Project Rollout Across Shropshire Telford and Wrekin

We are pleased to announce the rollout of our Medicines Ordering Project across Shropshire Telford and Wrekin. After successful trials with GP practices, PCN teams, community pharmacies and care settings, we are now expanding the project region-wide.

The project aims to support the streamlining of medication ordering processes within care settings and across Primary Care, improving communication, reducing unnecessary in-hours and out-of-hours contact by care settings to gain access to medicines, and minimising medicine waste.

By providing training and education, we aim to save time in general practices, community pharmacies, and care homes, while identifying areas for improvement.

The training session, which lasts around 30 minutes, is delivered face-to-face at a convenient time and location for care settings.

Additionally, we are offering a new 40-minute session on self-care and medicines.

If you're interested in either session, please get in touch. Let's work together to improve medication processes and outcomes across the region.

Signpost to Training

Telford College:

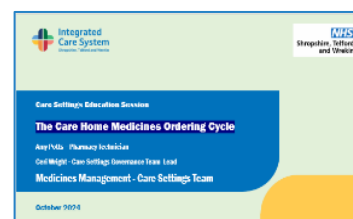
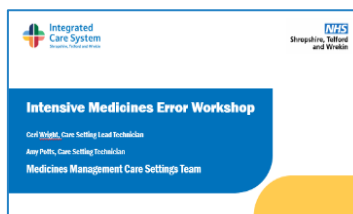
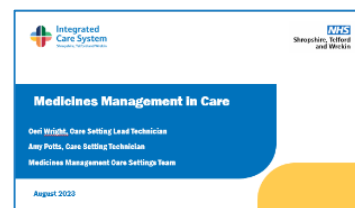
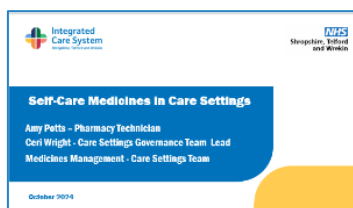
[HSC Training Academy – Telford College](#)

- **Clinical Observations and Sepsis Awareness** [here](#). This course is suitable for all Health and Social Care staff who will be recording clinical observations as part of their role.
- **Step into Health & Social Care** [here](#). This free short course is a stepping stone into a career in the sector.

ICS Learning Management System:

- **Improving the management of suspected UTI** [here](#). Twenty-minute e-learning module suitable for all.

Medicines Management Care Settings Team:



Please get in touch if you are interested in any of our care settings team training sessions:

- Self-care medicines
- Medicines Management in Care
- Error Workshop
- Care Home Medicines Ordering Cycle
- Personalised Medication

Please contact us if you would like any support with medicines management, or with your good practice examples for future newsletters: stw.carehomeenquiries@nhs.net