

The Newsletter Team



Louise Porterfield
Pharmacy Technician
Shropshire County PCT



Ceri Wright
Care Homes Medicines Management Officer
Shropshire PCT
(Homepage Editor)



Karen George
Clinical Nurse Advisor – Independent Sector
PCT & SPIC

Training Accreditation Status

Medication in Care has now been accredited by the Royal College of Nursing (RCN). The one-day course enables registered nurses and carers to meet with others, share knowledge and take part in workshops around a variety of topics including administration, error handling and care planning. A dietician attends to talk about nutrition in the care sector. Book a place via Shropshire Partners in Care (SPIC) or the local authority.

Launch of New Competency Assessment Tool

The **Observational Assessment Matrix (OAM)** is an assessment tool designed as a means of demonstrating a RN/Care Worker's competency to perform tasks relating to managing medication in a care setting. The matrix is mapped to the Skills for Care Qualifications and Credit Framework unit outcomes for medication management. For details contact the Medicines Management Team (MMT). In light of the launch we have arranged a training event...

Assessor Training

CQC Essential standards gives information about what providers need to do to comply with the regulations of the Health and Social Care Act 2008. Outcome 9: Management of medicines states - where people who use services receive care, treatment and support that involves medicines the provider must ensure that staff handling medicines have the competency and skills needed to do so safely. **How do you ensure that you are able to assess your staff?** A "one off" training workshop to be held in January offers managers or senior staff the opportunity to attend a one day course which, on successful completion will provide certification to assess staff competency. Contact the MMT or SPIC for details

Discharge Information to & from Hospital

Karen is currently running a project in which discharge information to care homes from hospital, and to hospital from care homes is being

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audited and assessed. Please alert us to any unacceptable or illegible discharge information here at medicines management, this will help us work together to reach a satisfactory conclusion for all involved.

Proper Labelling Required

There is still confusion on labelling requirements in care homes; please ask for complete directions to be put on labels – we noted directions in one home which read "QDS PRN". Creams & ointments are often labelled "as directed" – please discuss directions with surgery teams. Care plans should include information detailing where and how often topical products are to be applied.

Good Practice Care Planning

Good nursing practice requires that care homes (nursing) check and record BP, weight/BMI and Waterlow scores on a monthly basis. Risk assessments/care plans should also be evaluated monthly. **We still see homes where this is not happening.**

Oral Nutritional Supplement (ONS – Sip feeds) Request Form

All homes in Shropshire County were sent a copy of the Oral Nutrition Starter Pack in June 2011. This resource supports the appropriate use of ONS and a "food first" approach to nourishment. All GPs are now expecting to see the ONS request form (appendix 4) for every ONS that is ordered

Reducing Antipsychotics

The drive to reach a point where antipsychotic medication is prescribed appropriately and reviewed regularly continues. Look out for a new web based service soon to be available from www.e4c.co.uk or the "STAR guidelines" from Cornwall & Isle of White PCT. It is essential that staff are trained to correctly manage people with dementia.

A New Wound Care Formulary has been launched. Nurses, please ensure your practice is adherent i.e. you do not request wound care products that are NOT on the formulary. A note also on *Homely dressings*; can we stress how important it is to have your audit sheets in at the start of every month. This is so we can calculate your savings, and assess how effective the service is. If you'd like a report detailing your use and savings contact the MMT so this can be prepared for you. Monthly audit sheets should be faxed for the attention of Louise Porterfield on 01743 277558.

Replacing Wasted Tablets

It would be expected that the occasional tablet is dropped due to the nature of some residents: Homes will be expected by CQC to request a replacement for tablets which are occasionally dropped, the general protocol for this is to take the last tablet from the pack and when the next supply is requested add the replacement to this i.e. request a 28 day supply plus the quantity missing. Requests for single tablets should be avoided.

Poor Practice with PRNs

To ensure the medication is given as intended a specific plan for administration of "when required" (PRN) medication must be recorded. Information on why the medication has been prescribed and how to give it should be sought from the prescriber, the supplying pharmacist or other healthcare professionals involved in the treatment of the person. As it is for occasional use PRN medication should not be offered or given only at the times listed on the MAR chart or at specific medication rounds. The person should be offered the medication at the times they are experiencing the symptoms or at the times specified by the prescriber. **(CQC October 2008)**. We are still seeing incorrect recording because of a common "fear" of leaving gaps on MAR charts implying medication is only being offered at times listed on the MAR. A PRN medication should be administered exactly that – when required and not just at 8am, 12noon, 5pm and 10pm or whenever the MAR chart dictates. The administration should be recorded on the MAR with the initials of the person administering and the time given. We are asking pharmacy teams to work with us on this and leave the time slots blank for PRNs unless being offered a PRN medication at a certain time is a specific direction in the resident's care plan. **And don't forget... keep a running balance and carry in date, current medication over to the next month's MAR.**

West Midlands Care Home Action Group Resources Toolkit

Don't forget to visit the Keele University website to find this useful collection of resources relating to medicines management in care homes - link to Keele Website <http://www.keele.ac.uk/pharmacy/general/pctsla/swapshop/westmidlandscarehomeactiongroupresources/toolkit/>