



West Gloucestershire

Primary Care Trust

Care Home Support Team

The Care Home
Support Team

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Autumn newsletter

The Care Homes Support Team

“Working in partnership with Care Homes and Health and Social Care Agencies across West Gloucestershire”

Dear all,
Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Newsletter. We have been very busy over the summer working with several different projects, but thought we'd stop briefly to tell you about them!

We have a new Nurse Advisor as a replacement for Jon Ryland.

Please welcome Mandy Barnard to the role. Mandy has worked with Care Homes for several years, including five years as manager of Horsbere House in Brockworth so is a very valuable asset to our team.

COMING SOON.... FREE TRAINING!

Medicines Management and the Care Homes Support team will be providing two Wound Management study days for Nursing Homes in line with the PCT Dressings Formulary.

These sessions will be a full day with lunch provided. They aim to provide you with both theoretical knowledge and the opportunity to practice practical skills and to understand the wound formulary. Great for your portfolio. Look out for the invitations and book your place **ASAP.**

Falls Day / Active ageing update

The falls awareness day in July was a great success. The event was well attended and saw the first cohort of SAFE practitioners receiving their certificates.

Well done to you all and thank you to staff at the participating homes Greenlands, Sceats, Bruswick, Woodstock, St. Pauls, Charnwood and Magdalen House for working so hard with us.

We are now commencing our second cohort from 11 new homes, welcome to all of you and we hope you enjoy and use this unique opportunity to benefit you personally and your clients.

This project has gained considerable interest countywide and further and we are looking to develop a training manual to share this practice around the country.

Remember - In order for these exercise programmes to have any benefit on your clients they need to be run on at least a weekly basis and need to be fun.

If you need help or support running a session please contact Mikki or Mandy who will be happy to help.

Not all eye drops and creams should be kept in the fridge!

Unless a product states that it should be kept between 2-8°C then it should be kept at room temperature.

Keeping an eye drop in the fridge incorrectly could result in crystallisation of the drug and discomfort for the patient.

NB—Xalatan (latanoprost) drops should be kept in the fridge until opened and then kept at room temp.

Contact Kathryn with any problems.

In brief

- **If you have a client who you are finding it difficult to manage their care you can contact Mikki or Mandy who are happy to come to your Home and support you in their care, and look at the issues concerning you.**
- **Did you know we offer free in-house training with small groups of staff for short training sessions in your Home.**

Please contact Mikki or Mandy for more information.

Pharmaceutical waste from Nursing Homes

Pharmacies are no longer allowed to collect pharmaceutical waste from Nursing Homes unless the Pharmacy is registered. Please check if this affects your pharmacy. If they cannot take it, it is the Nursing Home's responsibility to arrange for waste to be collected by a different company. CSCI have issued guidance on this, contact them or Kathryn for more information. There is no change for Residential Homes.

Best Practice Folders

The Care Homes Support Team have developed some Best Practice Guidelines which we are recommending all Homes to use. They should be a concise source of facts and guidelines at your fingertips.

We have collected these together in a folder which we will deliver along with some training for your staff.

So far the guidelines cover:

Acting to prevent Elder abuse

Blood pressure monitoring— Why? Who? How often?

Blood sugar monitoring—Why? Who? How often?

Recording blood tests taken

Expiry dates for medicines e.g. creams, liquids

Information on crushing tablets.

Falls prevention assessment tool

Urine testing protocol