



West Gloucestershire

Primary Care Trust

Care Home Support Team

The Care Home Support Team

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Spring newsletter

The Care Homes Support Team

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

Welcome to an early spring newsletter!

We hope you are all well and working well in your roles to improve the Care of Older people in Care Homes.

Our team continue to be a resource to help and support you, but sadly Kathryn’s contract ends at the end of February and she is off to new challenges, so we will be without a pharmacist. We will keep you posted on a replacement.

We would like to thank Kathryn for her valuable contribution to the project and wish her a happy and successful future

Remember, Mikki and Mandy are available for advice or to work with you in caring for clients with complex needs.

National News story “Care Homes fail on drugs”

Did you all see the News reports following the publication of CSCI’s report “Handled with Care”? This report highlighted how many Care Homes fail to meet the National Minimum Standards for medication.

The report makes interesting reading, and can be downloaded from CSCI’s website, it details examples of good and bad practice and recommends that all local councils and Primary Care organisations need to do more to improve standards for medication by recognising the problems and helping with training.

Destruction of Controlled Drugs in Nursing Homes

Now that the rules for disposal of medicines from Nursing Homes have been tightened, Nursing Homes will need to make sure they are disposing of controlled drugs correctly.

It has been recommended that controlled drugs should be denatured before being handed over for disposal. To denature them Homes can use a commercially available ‘Dooop’ kit. The waste disposal company will advise accordingly.

Some care providers have expected the pharmacist to sign the CD register when CD are returned, this is not a legal requirement. It is however strongly recommended that a registered nurse and an appropriate witness sign the record of disposal in the CD register.

For more information contact your Waste disposal company or your local pharmacist. If you have any problems contact the Medicines Management team at the PCT on 01452 389505.

Active Ageing update

The project year is coming to an end, and the team will be carefully evaluating the project's success.

All students who have been involved will receive a training manual, and ongoing support will be available.

The team will also be looking rolling it out to more Homes in the future and having regular forums to update skills and share experiences.

STOP PRESS: Wheelchair use

Remember to ALWAYS put the footplates down on wheelchairs when moving clients, not doing this can result in serious injury

Adverse Clinical Incidents (ACIs)

Clinical incidents occur in Homes and often go unreported, an example of this might be a patient discharged from hospital with poor information or no medicines.

The PCT would like to know about these incidents so that they have improved power to change things for the better. If you have an incident like this in your Home please report it to the PCT and let Mikki or Mandy know so we can chase it up and give you feedback.

COMING IN MARCH - FREE TRAINING!

The Care Homes Support Team in association with Bard will be providing two free Catheter Management study afternoons for Homes:

Wed 15th March at Oxstalls centre & **Wed 29th March** at Forest Hills golf course

These aim to provide you with theoretical knowledge and the opportunity to practice practical skills. Open to qualified nurses and NVQ3 staff.

Alongside this there are Catheterisation and continence care courses available from the Gloucestershire Continence service for Nursing Home staff, at The Lawns Nursing Home, Quedgley. **If you are interested in either or both of these training opportunities please contact Mikki or Mandy**

NEWS IN BRIEF:

- Lancets for blood testing of blood sugar levels must NOT be used for more than one client. There is now a device available on prescription designed for single use. This device is called an AUTO Safety Lancet and is made by Vital Care.

- From the end of March, Oxygen cylinders will no longer be available from community pharmacies. Instead a company called Air Products will supply them directly. Please contact the patient's GP if you have any problems

Tissue viability Link group Invitation

Lynn Davis, PCT Tissue Viability Nurse, would like to set up a Link Group for healthcare staff interested in Tissue Viability and Wound care, and you are invited!

This group would consist of one representative from each Home and would meet every 2 months to hear up-to-date product information and share good practice.

To reply contact Lynn on 01452 389461