



### **Position Statement on unused medication in the care home setting**

Ipswich and East Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group would like to remind care and residential home staff that medication ordered for patients **should not routinely be returned to the dispensing pharmacy or dispensary at the end of the month.**

If a patient does not use the full quantity of medication in a month, it should be retained in order to use in subsequent months. This also applies to medication which is given infrequently or when required.

Returning unused medication when the patient will require it in subsequent months contributes to the large amount of wastage within the NHS, as this medication has to be disposed of, regardless of whether it has been opened or not.

Please adhere to best practice protocols when requesting medication, and only order sufficient supply for the coming month.

Please check medicines received for patients on a monthly basis to ensure they have been prescribed at an appropriate dose. If the dose is very different to the patient's actual usage, please discuss this with their GP.

Please note: This does not apply if the patient's medication has been stopped and they will no longer take it, or is out of date. If this is the case, please return to a pharmacy for safe disposal.