



## Medicines management update

### 'Do you take it?' campaign

The 'Do you take it?' campaign was launched on Monday 19th October. Leaflets and posters have been sent to all pharmacies, GP practices and care homes in Ipswich and East Suffolk.

We would be very grateful for your support with this campaign:

- Before re-ordering a resident's medication, please check their compliance and only order medication that the patient is taking and is needed that month.
- Where patients are not taking their medication as prescribed, it is really important that the GP practice is informed. This ensures the practice has an accurate record of the medicines the patient is taking and reduces medicine waste.

In East Suffolk it is estimated that £2.4million is spent annually on medication that is wasted. As I am sure you are aware NHS resources continue to be squeezed and it is difficult to justify spending so much money on medicines that are not needed and end up being wasted.

### Barrier films and creams

Cavilon barrier film and cream are non-formulary and should not be requested on prescription. The formulary barrier **film** for peri-wound protection is now Secura. Secura is available in the same presentations as Cavilon (28ml spray, 1ml and 3ml swabs). If a barrier **cream** is needed for incontinence, Conotrane should be used 1st line.

If a non-formulary wound care product is needed, please fill out an [exemption reporting form](#) which will ask you to explain why this product is needed.

### General Contact Details:

Medicines management:	01473 770249
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### Appliances on prescription

There are a lot of patients in East Suffolk who are receiving incorrect quantities of appliances on prescription. One of the reasons for this is the confusion around the correct time duration an appliance should be used for.

To help prescribers and care staff ordering appliances, we have created an [appliance quantities guide](#) which shows the duration certain appliance should be used for and the quantity which needs to be ordered on a monthly basis.

To support GP practices with formulary adherence we have also sent a letter to all dispensing appliance contractors (DACs) asking them to adhere to the CCGs [position statement](#) for the prescribing of appliances. If your care home uses a DAC please ensure you obtain a signed prescription before ordering the appliance from the company.

### Over the counter (OTC) medication

The CCG is currently trying to promote self-care and does not support the prescribing of medication that is readily available to buy for children or adults.

Care homes should use a homely remedies protocol to administer OTC medicines to residents to treat minor ailments such as headache and hay fever. In November a letter was sent to all care homes in East Suffolk from Barbara McLean, Chief Nursing Officer for Ipswich and East Suffolk CCG, reiterating the need for care homes to have a homely remedies protocol.

## Update from Clinical Support Manager - Ben Harvey

### Care home celebration event

The Care Homes Celebration Event is going to take place on **18<sup>th</sup> December**, 12-5pm, central Ipswich (venue TBC).

The event will be a showcase of best practice from care homes in the local area with a theme of dementia care. The agenda includes a number of expert speakers and we are pleased that Ben Gummer MP, will also be joining us.

You will have the opportunity to network and gain inspiration so you can go back and implement some of the ideas in your setting. Full details including the agenda will be sent out shortly, but please save the date as we would love to see you there! To confirm your free place please email your name and organisation to [bea.francis@suffolk.nhs.uk](mailto:bea.francis@suffolk.nhs.uk)

### Top Ten Winter Tips

You will all have received an aide-memoire on things to think about in preparation for the winter months. In addition to advice on important themes, there are also web links to resources. Please review this and see if there are any areas for improvement in your home.

### Urinary Tract Infection (UTI)

A guidance document has been sent to all care homes called Guidance on Prevention and Early Detection of Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) in Older People in Care Homes. This has been produced to help support care home staff to identify and report any signs of UTIs. There is also guidance on the prevention of UTIs.

## Training Sessions

### Falls Event on 21 October

Thank you to all who attended this event – even though we had many more people than expected we had great feedback, which will shape further training events going forward – watch this space!