



1. Waste in Care Homes

A report by the Department of Health estimates that unused medicines cost the NHS around £300 million every year, with an estimated £110 million worth of medicine returned to pharmacies, £90 million worth of unused prescriptions being stored in homes and **£50 million worth of medicines disposed of by Care Homes.**

It is really important to **only order what the patient needs** to help reduce waste. For example:

- 'As required' inhalers such as salbutamol may not be needed every month. If a patient is needing a new 'as required' inhaler regularly check the inhaler technique and consider flagging to the GP practice as the patient's treatment may need reviewing.
- Different emollients types have different expiries and may not need to be replaced every month. Take a look at the [CCG in-use expiries guidance](#) for more information.
- Paracetamol taken 'as required' may not be needed every month and care homes could use the [homely remedies protocol](#) to obtain supplies without the need for a prescription.

[In-use expiries guidance](#)

[Homely remedies protocol](#)

2. Guidance on cost-effective prescribing of ostomy and continence products

The CCG has produced some guidance to help clarify the usual amounts to be ordered each time and the frequency of change for these products.

[Cost-effective prescribing — Ostomy and Continence products](#)

3. Wound Care Products — Order Form

The medicines management team are currently promoting the Suffolk wound care formulary to nursing homes and GP practices. To support this work a dressing and emollients order form, listing items from the wound care formulary, has recently been launched.

These forms have been sent to all **nursing homes** in the area and should be used for:

- any dressing or;
- any emollient request submitted to the GP practice.

When using this form **it is important to request the actual quantity required rather than circling the maximum quantities.**

If you require more forms or have any comments about the forms please contact the medicines management team on 01473 770249.

[Wound care formulary](#)

[Order Form](#)

4. Antipsychotic use and withdrawal in dementia

The CCG has recently produced new guidance on the use and withdrawal of antipsychotics in dementia. The guidance:

- outlines the place of antipsychotics in the treatment of behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia (BPSD)
- provides information to assist GPs to withdraw these drugs.

This guideline supports the national drive to reduce the use of antipsychotics in patients with dementia.

[Antipsychotic use guidance](#)

5. Homely Remedies Protocol

The homely remedies protocol for use in care homes has just been updated. This protocol outlines the situations where care home staff may administer specified over the counter medication such as paracetamol and senna, similar to how a patient might self-care in their own home. The latest update of this protocol now includes basic wound care products to enable care home staff to cover a minor wound while awaiting nursing/medical review. Hard copies have been sent to all care homes.

[Homely Remedies Protocol](#)

6. CCG Website

A new section has been created on the [Ipswich and East Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group website](#) that will contain all relevant documents and information relating to care homes. Please click on the link below:

[How to access care homes information on the website](#)

7. Influenza

NHS England have advised that care homes should:

- Be alert to the likelihood of influenza cases and outbreaks occurring (for further details on identifying outbreaks click [here](#)).
- Promptly inform the Anglia Health Protection Team of suspected outbreaks of acute respiratory infection.
- Be aware that antivirals may be required for residents in the event of an outbreak.
- Ensure implementation of infection prevention and control advice as instructed by the Anglia Health Protection Team.

We would really appreciate any feedback you have on this newsletter and would welcome your ideas for future newsletter articles. Please contact [Catherine Butler](#).

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