



# Care Homes Newsletter

No. 3



Ipswich and East Suffolk  
Clinical Commissioning Group

August - October 2015

## Medicines management update

### Patient safety alert - antimicrobial resistance

Public Health England have issued a patient safety alert regarding antimicrobial resistance. This alert applies to all organisations providing NHS funded care where antibiotics are prescribed, dispensed or administered. Action should be taken immediately and completed by 31 March 2016. Click [here](#) to view the alert.

### 'Do you take it?' campaign

In the next couple of months the CCG is planning to launch a new campaign titled, 'Do you take it?' The aim of the campaign is to make patients and carers think about medication and whether they take everything they order on prescription.

It is hoped the campaign will also prompt healthcare professionals, including care home staff, to ask patients about their medication compliance. If a resident in your home is not taking their medication as prescribed please let the GP practice know so they can review the patient and amend the prescription if necessary.

### Nursing home dressings order form

All nursing homes in Ipswich and East Suffolk should be using the [dressings and emollient order form](#) to request these items from the GP practice. The order form lists formulary dressings and provides additional information on dressing duration and product selection. Pads of these forms are available from the CCG, please email [Jennifer Burman](#) to request more pads.

### Over the counter (OTC) medication

The CCG is currently trying to promote self-care and has just launched a new [position statement](#) stating that it 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. If your home does not have its own homely remedies protocol, the CCG has created one that care homes can use.

### Blood glucose testing strips

Not all people with diabetes need to regularly monitor their blood glucose levels. Patients with type 2 diabetes who are diet controlled, or on metformin alone or with glitazone, gliptins or GLP-1 analogues do not need to routinely test their blood glucose.

If any of your residents fit in to this category please let the GP practice know. The practice can then review whether blood glucose testing is needed and amend the patient's prescription. For more information take a look at the [CCG blood glucose monitoring guidance](#).

### Medication Switches

The medicines management team regularly recommend medication switches to GP practices to ensure the most cost effective medicines are used. If a resident's medication is switched, the resident will be sent a letter informing them of the change. The current switches being undertaken include:

- Stalevo to Stanek - Stanek is a branded generic version of Stalevo and is more cost effective.

## Update from Clinical Support Manager - Ben Harvey

### Falls prevention

Does your home have a good falls prevention strategy? Would you be willing to share your good practice?

The CCG is currently organising a falls training event (21<sup>st</sup> October) and is looking for someone to speak for 15 minutes on good practice falls prevention. If you are interested in speaking, please email [Ben Harvey](#)

### Care homes celebration event

If you would like to participate in the Care Homes Celebration Event on 16<sup>th</sup> December please let [Ben Harvey](#) know.

Ben is looking for speakers who would be willing to talk about an aspect of their practice that is innovative or has had a positive impact on residents, relatives and staff.

## Training Sessions

### Anaphylaxis Training - for nursing homes

The CCG has organised a free anaphylaxis training session for nursing home nurses. This training will allow nursing homes to administer flu vaccinations to their residents.

Date: Thursday 10 September 2015

Venue: Ipswich Sports Club, Henley Road, Ipswich IP1 4NJ

Session 1: 2.30pm – 3.30pm  
Session 2: 4pm – 5pm

The content will be the same for each session. Only 20 places per session.

To book your place please email [Sheri Probert](#).

### General Contact Details:

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