

Care Home Advice Pharmacy Service (CHAPS)

Summary of medicines re-use scheme for care homes

This is a brief summary of the guidance issued from The Department of Health & Social Care on 28th April 2020. For the full version go to; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-reuse-of-medicines-in-a-care-home-or-hospice>

When should the re-use scheme be put into place?

Each individual care home or hospice must carry out a risk assessment on an individual medicine basis.

Three key indicators that should inform the risk assessment and the subsequent decision on whether or not to re-use a medicine:

- **No other stocks** of the medicine are available in an appropriate time frame and there is an immediate patient need for the medicine;
- **No suitable alternatives** for an individual patient are available in a timely manner, i.e. a new prescription cannot be issued, and the medicine(s) supplied against it in the conventional manner quickly enough; and
- The benefits of using a medicine that is **no longer needed** by the person for whom it was originally prescribed or bought, outweigh any risks for an individual patient receiving that unused medicine.

This scheme applies to all medication, that has been supplied to patients while in a care home or hospice, has not been removed from that setting (other than for short periods up to 24 hours) and has been stored in accordance with best practice guidance on storing medication in a managed setting.

If **all three** of the above conditions have been met then medication re-use can be considered

- Care home staff should seek permission, where possible, from the patient for their medicines (if no longer needed) to be available for other patients and/or to receive a re-used medicine. This should be recorded in the patients care plan.
- **A copy of the prescription must be sent to the care home** for their information and records.
- The medicine(s) to be re-used must have been assessed by an appropriate healthcare professional (e.g. pharmacist, pharmacy technician, GP, nurse) as suitable for re-use, using the criteria in the full [SOP](#).
- Care homes and hospices should keep a log of re-used stock.

For additional support please contact the CHAPS team nccg.chapsnorthants@nhs.net