

Our Ref: ID 1598

NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group
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Re: Freedom of Information Request – Medicines Management in Care Homes

Thank you for your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which was received into this office on 16th December 2019.

You Asked for:

1. What data does the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) have access to on medicine prescription, dispensing and administration in care homes and how is this collected?
2. What policies do you currently have within the CCG for monitoring, reviewing and optimising medicine use in care homes?
3. How is medicine prescribing, dispensing and administration within care homes in the CCG monitored?
4. Are there any specialist teams within the CCG responsible for reviewing medicines within care homes, such as medicine optimisation pharmacists, and if so, what is the standard process for this? For example:
 - a. Who is involved in these reviews?
 - b. How often are these reviews conducted?
 - c. How are individuals identified for review?
 - d. What is the standard process for conducting these reviews?
 - e. How long do these reviews take?
 - f. What tools or frameworks are used to guide the review and/or decisions around deprescribing?
 - g. How are outcomes of the review assessed?

Our Response:

1. NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) commissions Midlands and Lancashire Commissioning Support Unit (MLCSU) Medicines Optimisation Care Home (MOCH) Pharmacists to provide medication reviews for elderly patients in Wirral care homes. This involves reviewing patients' care records and Medication Administration Records (MAR charts) in the care home. This provides the MOCH Pharmacists with data on what medicines have been prescribed by the GP and administered by care home staff. The MOCH Pharmacists also have access to a Patient's GP medical record which enables them to view medical histories, prescribing information and check allergies. The MOCH pharmacists do not have access to data on dispensing.

2. The CCG does not currently have a care home medicines policy for monitoring, reviewing and optimising medicines use in care homes.
3. The MLCSU MOCH Pharmacist team does not monitor prescribing, dispensing and administration in care homes.
4. The CCG commissions NHS England funded MOCH pharmacists to undertake medication reviews for patients in Wirral care homes.
 - a. MLCSU MOCH pharmacists are involved along with Community Pharmacists and a Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (CWP) Mental Health Specialist Pharmacist.
 - b. Currently, reviews are undertaken each week, operating on a rotational basis across the care homes.
 - c. When visiting a care home for the elderly, MLCSU MOCH Pharmacists will review all residents' medication. During the course of the project, all LD patients residing in NHS Wirral CCG's footprint are intended to be reviewed, where consent is obtained.
 - d. MLCSU MOCH Pharmacists use a standard template for recording actions. The MLCSU MOCH Pharmacists can use aide memoirs/checklists, which have been developed by the NHS England national MOCH Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education (CPPE) course team.
 - e. An estimated minimum of at least an hour per person would be required.
 - f. Please see the list below for the tools and frameworks used that are freely available:
 - MOCH CPPE - <https://www.cppe.ac.uk/>
 - Royal Pharmaceutical Society Medicines Optimisation Hub tools online - <https://www.rpharms.com/>
 - NICE guidelines - <https://www.nice.org.uk/>
 - Pan Mersey Formulary guidelines - <https://www.panmerseyapc.nhs.uk/>
 - Wirral care home diabetes policy - <https://www.wuth.nhs.uk/media/8835/diabetes-policy-with-nice-approval-wirral-care-homes-70618-locked.pdf>
 - The STOPP START toolkit - https://mm.wirral.nhs.uk/document_uploads/other-topics/STOPP_START_Tool2015.pdf
 - ACBCalc, Medichec and prescqipp anticholinergic drugs briefing - <https://www.prescqipp.info/media/1018/b140-anticholinergics-drugs-briefing-21.pdf>
 - Glasgow Antipsychotic Side effect scale - https://www.sussexpartnership.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/documents/glasgow_antipsychotic_side-effect_scale_gass_-_jan_18_0.pdf
 - Medication Adherence Report Scale
 - COPD Assessment Test (CAT Score) - <https://www.evidence.nhs.uk/search?ps=30&q=copd+assessment>
 - Asthma Control Test (ACT Score) - <https://www.asthmacontroltest.com/Europe/United%20Kingdom/en>
 - g. A patient's outcome response to a change in medication is monitored by their clinician (and/or an MDT for complex LD patients). Pharmacists also record a variety of anonymised audit data: the number of reviews completed, the number of medications reviewed, the number of recommendations made, those agreed to or not by the patient and/ or clinician, the number of specific types of changes to medication made, drugs no longer required medicines, and number of drugs a patient no longer wishes to take. This is reviewed and assessed by the MLCSU MOCH Pharmacists on a monthly basis.

We hope this information is useful, however if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Corporate Affairs Team (contact details at the top of this letter)

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