

Good Practice Guidance for Care Homes

Tips for reducing medicine waste in care homes

- ✓ Designate specific members of staff to order medicines, consider allocating protected time for this task.
- ✓ Communicate any medication changes to colleagues at handover.
- ✓ When ordering medicines, make sure you are referring to the current Medicines Administration Record (MAR) chart.
- ✓ Always check current stock before ordering medicines
- ✓ Remember “as required” medicines may not need to be ordered on each medicine cycle; only order the medicines you need.
- ✓ Keep a copy of your medicine order and check this against signed prescriptions or printed dispensing tokens prior to being dispensed by the pharmacy (enables opportunity to clarify any discrepancies with the GP practice, follow up missing items and inform pharmacy of items which may not be required before the medicines are supplied)
- ✓ On receipt of medicines, check against the record of the order / photocopy of prescription / dispensing token and report any discrepancies to the pharmacy.
- ✓ Check the expiry date of medicines – make sure supplies are rotated so that any remaining stock is used first.
- ✓ If a resident is unable to take medicines or is regularly refusing, refer to the prescriber for further support and advice.
- ✓ Keep a record of the reasons why medicines are placed for disposal.
- ✓ Monitor which medicines are being disposed of to identify trends that can be discussed with the prescriber or the person ordering medicines.

****ONLY ORDER WHAT YOU NEED****

MOVP-038 -V4 Good Practice -Medicines- Waste-Top-Tips-for- Care-homes-Poster	Approved date: 07/11/2023	Review date: 07/11/2025
©NHS Commissioning Board. Developed by North of England Commissioning Support Unit 2023	Status: Approved	