

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 what 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 order / photocopy of prescription / dispensing token and report any discrepancies to the pharmacy
- ✓ Check the expiry date of medicines
- ✓ If a resident is unable to take medicines, refer to the prescriber
- ✓ 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****

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