Medicines in Care Homes

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Chief Pharmacist

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The CQC Standards for Residential Care Home Providers (October 2014)

How are people’s medicines managed so that they receive them safely?

1. Does the service follow current and relevant professional guidance about the management and review of medicines?
2. Do people receive their medicines as prescribed (including controlled drugs)?
3. Are medicines stored, given to people and disposed of safely, in line with current and relevant regulations and guidance?
4. Are there clear procedures for giving medicines, in line with the Mental Capacity Act 2005?
5. How does the service make sure that people’s behaviour is not controlled by excessive or inappropriate use of medicines?
6. How are people supported to take their own medicines safely?
7. What guidance is given to staff about unlicensed medicines that people may choose to use?
NICE Quality standards (due March 2015)

Seven statements:
1. Care homes have a medicines policy that is regularly reviewed.
2. People who live in care homes are supported to self-administer their medicines unless a risk assessment has indicated that they are unable to do so.
3. People who live in care homes have an accurate listing of their medicines made on the day that they transfer into a care home.
4. People who live in care homes have details of their medicines shared with their new care provider when they move from one care setting to another.
5. GP practices have a clear written process for prescribing medicines for their patients who live in care homes.
6. People who live in care homes have at least 1 multidisciplinary medication review per year
7. Care homes have a documented process for the covert administration of medicines for adult residents
NICE QS on Care Homes
Areas a Care Homes pharmacist can be involved

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Next Steps – Care Homes

• Familiarise yourself with the NICE guidance and CQC requirements

• Ensure your medicines policies and procedures are up to date

• Liaise with primary care and community pharmacists to reduce the incidence of medicines errors and promote medicines optimisation
Medicines waste

- 30-50% of patients with long term conditions do not take their medicines as intended
- £300 million worth of prescribed medicines are discarded in England alone each year
- Approximately 17% are disposed of in care homes
- Drugs disposed of by care homes cost approximately £50m

What can you do to help?
- Ordering – only ordering what is needed monthly
- Review – ensuring patients are reviewed and medicines topped if not required
- Feedback to prescribers- making prescribers aware if patient no longer requires medication
References

NICE Guidelines SC1
http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/SC1

Managing Medicines in Care Homes Overview (pathway)

NICE Quality Standards
Questions??
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