

MOCH Quarterly

Winter 2023



Welcome to the third edition of our Care Home newsletter!



Learning point

An incident recently occurred in a care home where new rivastigmine patches had been applied to the resident without the old patches being removed. This event led to the resident having a total of four patches stuck on different areas of the body. Although no harm was caused to the resident, it is important that all carers and staff administering medications in care homes are aware and/or reminded that old patches need to be located and removed, before any new patches are applied.



Actions



- Cascade information to all relevant staff, assess knowledge and reinforce training, where applicable.
- Use a patch chart if not already in place to facilitate the process. The MOCH team have patch charts available on the [BSW ICB website](#); these can be adapted to the needs of the care home.
- Update medicines policy accordingly, if necessary.

! Patch safety alert reminders !

The Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) have issued alerts on patches (2014 rivastigmine, 2018 fentanyl). These warn of inappropriate use and overdose.

Heat can increase the amount of drug released from a patch. This can cause greater and sometimes fatal doses to be absorbed. The following advice is recommended:

- Residents should bathe or shower with care whilst wearing a patch. Avoid long hot baths or showers.
- Never expose the patch to direct heat. Residents using patches should avoid electric blankets, hot water bottles, heating pads, heated water beds, tanning lamps, saunas, and sunbathing.
- Monitor a resident if there are signs of a fever. A viral or bacterial infection can increase the body temperature. This can increase how much drug is released into the body and lead to overdose.
- Ensure that the residents and caregivers know the signs and symptoms of overdose. This information is found on the product's patient information leaflet. Seek medical attention immediately if concerned.
- Provide risk assessments in the patients' care plans to alert any staff to the risks of applying medicated patches.

Sodium Valproate – Special Containers



The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has re-classified all sodium valproate preparations as 'special containers'. This change is to help ensure that women of child-bearing age are informed of the risks of taking sodium valproate during pregnancy, since the manufacturer's original packs include specific warnings and pictograms on the labelling.

This means that pharmacies are no longer allowed to open original containers whilst dispensing any preparations of sodium valproate and full containers of capsules/tablets/dispersible/liquid must be supplied when dispensing.

Impact on care homes:

As care homes get monthly medication as a 28-day cycle, extra supply will build up each month which should be carried over and kept in the medication cupboard with the rest of the resident's medication.

Actions for care homes:

Count and record the remaining capsules/tablets thoroughly before ordering for the next cycle. Keep track of the remaining stock and assess whether supply is required when ordering each month. Eventually, you should accumulate enough that you won't need to order for a month.



Care Home visits – book now!



The MOCH technicians can offer a friendly visit to your care home to do a **medicines audit**.

Our audit is mapped to NICE 'Managing Medicines in Care Homes' (SC1) guidance and incorporates CQC advice, as well as local policies/recommendations.

What to expect when we visit?

Prior to our visit, on booking, we will send a copy of our self-audit. Once received, relevant parts will need to be filled in by the care home and sent back to the MOCH email inbox, [before the visit](#).

The audit has set criteria. Some of the criteria are discussion points, about processes and policies in your care home.

We will have a look at storage areas, MAR charts, medication trolleys, CD records, etc. and make some recommendations, if applicable.

After our visit, we will email a comprehensive report with feedback including advice, suggestions, and recognition of good practice, based on our discussions and observations during the visit.

What are the benefits?

We make recommendations based on best practice guidance from NICE and CQC. This may help you to drive improvements in medicines management in your care home or provide reassurance that your processes and practices are safe and effective.

Email the MOCH team to book:

bswicb.bswmoch@nhs.net

We will get back to you as soon as possible to arrange a date and time that is convenient.

Festive recipes for nourishing, fortified drinks

Ingredients:

- 2 generous tablespoons (30g) skimmed milk powder
- 1/3 pint (180ml) whole milk
- 5 heaped teaspoons (25g) of milkshake powder (e.g. Ovaltine Original Add Milk, Horlicks Malted Food Drink) **OR**
- 4 heaped teaspoons (20g) of milkshake powder, if using milkshake powder that is already fortified with vitamins (e.g. Aldi Cowbelle, Asda Milkshake Mix, Lidl Goody Cao, Morrisons Milkshake Mix or Nesquik)

Directions:

1. Mix milk powder and milkshake powder / Ovaltine / Horlicks together in a glass
2. Gradually mix in milk and stir well



Cinnamon Spice Milkshake

Add a dash of golden syrup, cinnamon/nutmeg powder and /or mixed spice!



Luxurious Hot Chocolate

Add some whipped cream and mini marshmallows on top!

Our [thickener guidance](#) has recently been updated, check the link!

WHAT'S NEW?

Formeo rollout

BSW Integrated Care Board (ICB) are delighted to announce that we are able to invite Care Homes **with** Nursing in **Wiltshire** to access the online Formeo system, which will allow you to order dressings directly into your home. The dressings available will be selected from a formulary written and agreed by the Tissue Viability Nurses. This service will be funded by BSW ICB. This system should improve the speed of access to dressings for residents in your home, by eliminating the need for a prescription to be written by your GP.

We have written to you all in the summer and reminders were sent out on the 7th December 2023. Please check your email for the **Introduction of Formeo Wound Care Ordering (dressings) Platform** letter. There was a confirmation slip attached to the email that you need to fill in and return to us. If your home has already signed up, thank you. We hope you find the system easy to use and helpful.

If you have not yet signed up, please contact Maria via the prescribing inbox bswicb.prescribing@nhs.net as soon as possible.

New document on the website

[MOCH Fridge temperature out of range flowchart](#)

OPENING HOURS



For local pharmacy Christmas and New Year opening hours, please visit the [NHSE pharmacy opening hours website](#).

*We wish you a Merry
Christmas and a Happy
New Year!*

