

Press Release



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MEDICINES IN CARE HOMES – TRAINING PACK LAUNCHED BY NPA

The National Pharmaceutical Association, representing community pharmacy owners, has published a new training pack for pharmacists to train care staff on the administration of medicines.



The pack has been written to meet the training requirements of the national minimum standards set by the bodies that regulate and inspect care homes (National Care Standards Commission (NCSC), Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales (CSIW), Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Social Care (SCRC)). It also reflects the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain guidelines on the administration and control of medicines in care homes and children's services.

John D'Arcy, NPA Chief Executive, commented: "Many pharmacists are already providing this training for care homes. Of course, it is for individual care home managers to decide how their staff are trained, but community pharmacists, as experts in the use of medicines, are the health professionals who are ideally placed to provide it."

Included in the pack is guidance for the pharmacist on the running of interactive training sessions and individual workbooks for the care staff who attend. The

workbooks include summaries of the sessions with activities and multiple choice questions for them to complete during and after each session.

The sessions cover:

- Introduction to medicines and their use
- Assisting with the administration of medicines
- Monitoring and supporting medicine use
- Medicines and the elderly (optional)

These sessions can be combined or adapted according to the needs of the individual care home.

ENDS

Notes to editors

1. The National Pharmaceutical Association (NPA) is the trade association that represents the professional and commercial interests of the owners of around 11,000 community pharmacies in the United Kingdom.
2. A new report published by the National Care Standards Commission (NCSC) has revealed that many care homes in England are failing to meet the minimum standards for the handling of medicines.
3. The report, 'The Management of Medication in Care Services 2002-03', analysed data collected from the inspection of 16,700 care homes across England. Results showed that:
 - 12% of care homes for older people "completely failed" to meet minimum standards for medicines handling
 - 43% of care homes for older people and 48% of care homes for children almost met standards, but still had numerous medication management failings
 - Only 44% of care homes for older people, 37% of care homes for children and 46% of care homes for younger people met the minimum standards.
4. Care homes run by private companies and by local authorities were found to be significantly worse than the voluntary sector.
5. Examples of bad practice highlighted in the report included:
 - Wrong medication given to service users
 - Incorrect storage, in relation to security and temperature
 - Inappropriate handling of medicines by untrained staff.
6. Those care homes which were found to be at or above the minimum standard gave their staff regular medication training, carried out monthly drug audits and had good relationships with local health professionals.
7. A complete pack consists of a Pharmacist's manual with 5 training workbooks for care staff. Packs of 5 additional workbooks are also available.

- Complete pack (order code MCH001): £49.95 for NPA members; non-members – price on application.
 - Additional workbooks (order code MCH005): £19.95 for NPA members; non-members – POA.
Available from the NPA Sales department on 01727 858687 ext. 3469 or sales@npa.co.uk.
8. For further information, please contact the NPA Press Office on 01727 858687 ext. 3340, 3265, 3227, 3311 or email: press.office@npa.co.uk.