



**Vale of York**  
Clinical Commissioning Group



Tuesday 03 December 2019

## **What's in your Partners in Care bulletin?**

This weekly bulletin provides details of training, guidance, access to past editions and lots more. There's also helpful information on the web pages dedicated to our Care Home and Domiciliary Care colleagues.

[Please click here to bookmark these pages.](#)



## Need to know



### **Alert: Risk of death and severe harm from ingesting superabsorbent polymer gel granules**

NHS England and Improvement have released a National Patient Safety Alert applicable to services including care homes, community settings and hospices.

Superabsorbent polymer gel granules (including sachets, mats and loose powder) are used to reduce spillage onto bedding, clothing and floors when patients use urine bottles or vomit bowls, or when staff move fluid-filled containers (eg washbowls, bedpans). In 2017, NHS Improvement issued a Patient Safety Alert<sup>1</sup> warning of the asphyxiation risk associated with the use of these gel granules. A patient died after ingesting a sachet of gel granules that had been left in a urine bottle in their room.

Since 2017, there have been a further 12 reported incidents of ingestion by patients; two patients died, and two patients required emergency treatment. These involved polymer gel products left in their urine bottles or vomit bowls or left for nearby patients to use. These incident reports, and NHS purchasing patterns<sup>2</sup>, suggest providers have been relying on local awareness raising rather than reviewing their overall approach to the use of these products. As a result of these incidents, and new guidance<sup>3</sup> reinforcing that polymer gels are only required for exceptional infection control purposes<sup>4</sup> this alert requires any organisation still using these products to protect patients by introducing strict restrictions on their use.

Information on actions required are detailed through this [link](#). The deadline for actions to be complete is **01 June 2020**.

If you have any queries relating to this alert, please contact [patientsafety.enquiries@nhs.net](mailto:patientsafety.enquiries@nhs.net) with the reference **NatPSA/2019/002/NHSPS**



## **Safer Administration of Medicines in Care Homes Survey**

As updated at Tuesday's Identification of Detiorating Residents Conference, Academic Health Science Networks (AHSN's) across the country are conducting a piece of work called the National Medicines Safety Improvement Programme. This aims to work with care homes to getting a better understanding of things that affect the safety of giving medicines, ways to continuously improve safety and experience of care and to measure effectivley how people can be protected from harm.

They are looking for care homes who are willing to volunteer to work with them more closely to build a very detailed understanding of the safety of giving medicines. Initially this will take the form of a survey, which well be fed back to the Yorkshire and Humber AHSN. In the future they will be asking for volunteers to participate in the testing of ideas that may make the giving of medicines even safer.

To view the survey and further information please click this [link](#). For any queries around the project please contact [Vicki.Linford@yhahsn.com](mailto:Vicki.Linford@yhahsn.com)

## **Dementia Case Finding in the Vale of York (sent on behalf of Rachel Instone, Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust)**

My name is Rachel Instone and I am an Assistant Psychologist with Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Trust. The Care Home and Dementia Team and the Memory Clinic, commissioned by the NHS Vale of York CCG, is running a service looking for individuals living in care homes who may have undiagnosed dementia. The reason for doing this work is to ensure that we provide the best possible, well informed care for our elderly population. In collaboration with GPs and care homes, I will be collecting data on residents who have an official diagnosis of dementia and also working with care home staff to identify any residents who they feel may have an undiagnosed dementia.

In York City, the Integrated Care Team are also working on a similar project, these [slides](#) will tell you who is covering which home. I have started this work in Selby and would like to thank all the care homes and GPs who have helped with this project so far. I will be contacting all the care homes in due course, but in the meantime if you have any questions about the project, or want to get in touch with me to find out more, my email address is: [Rachel.instone@nhs.net](mailto:Rachel.instone@nhs.net).

## Returning of Community Equipment

Pam Bolderson from the CCG and Darren Clark from Medequip attended the meeting to reiterate the importance of returning equipment which is no longer being used, or being used by an individual it wasn't prescribed for. Due to the loans based model the community equipment contract is based on, all equipment is still being paid for by the NHS and social care until it is returned (upon which 90% of the equipment cost is returned to the NHS). Anybody can call Medequip to request a collection through the details below. More information on community equipment can be found through the [meeting slides](#).

**Call:** 01423 226240

**Email:** [north.yorks@medequip-uk.com](mailto:north.yorks@medequip-uk.com)

## Training, development and education opportunities

### Skills for Care update November 2019

Partners in Care  
27 November 2019



### Skills for Care Update

Angela Thompson updated Partners in Care on the latest workforce and development developments in the Vale of York areas.

These included:

- The “Every Day is Different” recruitment campaign
- The “A Question of Care: A Career For You” tool which can act as a pre interview test or screening tool.



### React to Falls Prevention

The group were updated on the progress of the CCG's React to Falls Prevention Training for care homes. The training has so far been undertaken by 31 Vale of York homes, and 450 staff.

The aims of the training are to:

- Review falls policies/risk assessment tools/care

- Funded leadership development programmes for both current managers and aspiring managers.
- Workshops to improve confidence in mentoring.

Further information can be found in the [meeting slides](#).

plans/falls evaluation methods

- Implement 'Days between falls boards'
- Use the falls prevention prompt to assist in recognition of falls risks
- Encourage all staff to be involved with falls prevention and management
- Ensure that all staff attend React to Falls Prevention Training

Further information on the training can be found in the [meeting slides](#). For further discussion please contact [h.degnan1@nhs.net](mailto:h.degnan1@nhs.net)

## Managing Medicines E-learning

The City of York Council Workforce Development Unit have made available new e-learning on managing medicines. This training is free to all individuals working in adult social care within the City of York.

As most medicines have side effects, it is important to understand the seriousness of a person taking medicines unnecessarily or in the wrong way, or taking someone else's medicine. As a social care practitioner it is vital that you follow guidelines to avoid mistakes. In this module we'll look at some key areas and what you need to do.

Click on this link to log into [MyLO](#) and then search for the course name

## Capacity Tracker Decembers New User Masterclass - Health and Social Care Professionals Only

**Date:** Thursday 19 December from 9:00-10:00

North East Commissioning Support will be holding a virtual master class for health and social care professionals. During this they will include a walk-through of the latest functionality deployed on the tracker, and include a question and answer session. Please dial in via your pc laptop for visuals and please do remember to run the temp file - do not install WebEx to gain access. Joining instructions are below

For joining details for this session, please contact [sam.varo@nhs.net](mailto:sam.varo@nhs.net)

## Get involved and share your views



### Oral Care in Health Settings

Suzy Smith from North Yorkshire County Council and Ciaran Ferris from the CCG are conducting a piece of work around oral health care on the back of the recent CQC report "Smiling Matters". They are investigating holding workshops for care homes/domiciliary providers to help implement best practice.

If you would like to be involved in this work please

contact [Suzanne.Smith@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:Suzanne.Smith@northyorks.gov.uk) and [ciarán.ferris3@nhs.net](mailto:ciarán.ferris3@nhs.net)



### Good News

Partners in Care heard a number of positive news stories from care homes and domiciliary providers this autumn. These include:

- Rosevale raising £1050 through a family fun day, in aid of York Tourettes Support Group.
- Meadow Lodge Home Services co-ordinating a "jabathon" with a local pharmacy and vaccinating 32 staff members.
- South Park having a mural painted by the Army Wives Choir designed to bring the outside in and inspire wellbeing.
- Amarna House hosting a "Make a Difference Day" where staff and residents were able to give back to all the people who make a difference to them

This bulletin is produced by NHS Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group.

## Do you have.....

- thoughts or comments to share?
- news that you would like to feature in the bulletin?
- items to be discussed at the next Partners in Care Meeting?

If so please contact [sarah.fiori@nhs.net](mailto:sarah.fiori@nhs.net) or [sam.varo@nhs.net](mailto:sam.varo@nhs.net)