



Vale of York
Clinical Commissioning Group



**Care Homes and
Domiciliary Care**

Monday 04 May 2020

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](#)

Reuse of Medication in Care Homes- **New Guidance**

New national guidance has been published to allow the safe re use of medicines between residents living in the same care home or staying at the same hospice in **exceptional** circumstances. This includes where a supply cannot be obtained for a person who needs it in a timely manner and the medication is no longer needed by the person it was prescribed for.

The guidance, including the process, to be followed is available here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-reuse-of-medicines-in-a-care-home-or-hospice> (The guidance may change so always check the website for the latest version.)

Please read this guidance fully to be able to recognise when medication can be used in this way, the records you need to keep, and the consents that should be obtained wherever possible (See Table 3 in the guidance). Information on the guidance is also being sent to GPs and pharmacists.

Medication that may be suitable for reuse can be retained. Keep this separate from the in use medication but ensure it is stored safely according to the usual medication storage requirements for that medication, including the temperature and controlled drug requirements. Ensure that the medication is identified as being kept for possible reuse.

The Medicines Management Team will be providing further support on implementing this guidance. Any questions or comments at this stage are welcome and should be sent to Karenlepper@nhs.net

Partners in Care Lessons Learnt: Partners in Care COVID-19 ECHO Response Network

[A summary bulletin](#) has been produced by care providers represented at the ECHO Response Network who have experienced an outbreak of COVID-19 within their care setting. This is designed to provide shared learning and guidance to fellow care providers around

- How cases presented and what symptoms were shown
- How infections manifested themselves and how providers managed them
- How staff wellbeing was promoted

Please share and use this resource within your organisation as appropriate. More details on the network and how to join can be found below.

Need to know

PPE Latest Flowchart and Operations Guidance- **Updated**

North Yorkshire County Council Public Health on behalf of the Local Resilience Forum have created a revised (30 April) [flow chart](#) to aid decision making/risk assessment for the application of the guidance around PPE for COVID-19. This document is intended to help with local interpretation of government guidelines in community health and social care.

National guidance around IPC and PPE for care providers can be found through this [link](#).



Partners in Care- COVID-19 Response ECHO Network

All Vale of York care homes and domiciliary providers will now have received calendar invites to join the network, this meets twice weekly on Monday and Thursday at 14:00. Through the Zoom online platform the network is designed to provide the latest best practice guidance, training, and peer support to care providers in our region at this difficult time. CCG, local authority, infection prevention, mental health, CQC and medicines management are among the organisations also represented on these sessions to answer questions.

The slides from all the sessions that have taken place so far can be found through our [website](#). Topics discussed last week include around how to manage fire evacuations in care providers with the COVID context, accessing and using PPE, advanced care planning and reusing of medications within care home settings.

For any queries or to suggest topics for future sessions, please email projectECHOteam@stleonardshospice.nhs.uk or call Chris Charters on 07741 734659.



Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys

NHS Foundation Trust

Care Home and Dementia Team Update and Change of Number

In response to a new Mental Health and Crisis Response Line the York Care Home and Dementia Team now have a dedicated number for professionals to contact the team directly. This number is a dedicated referral / contact number for professionals, partner agencies and stakeholders, please do not share with service users or carers. The York Care Home and Dementia Team **professional only** number is **01904 461 196**. To confirm the Number that can be given out to Service Users is **01904 556 748**.

This week we have a printable [poster](#) with tips on how to manage prolonged periods of stress both at work and at home, the 'Self-Care Tree'. During the ECHO session on Thursday, there was an excellent presentation about advance care planning and end of life care. 'Namaste care' is a gentle approach to end of life that complements the medical needs and life-long beliefs of the individual, please see this [document](#) for more information.

As PPE becomes more necessary, some of the people we work with may struggle to understand why the people that care for them look so different. This activity has been developed to help residents understand that beneath all the gear, their friendly carers are still there. You are welcome to print the [poster](#) as it is, amend it to suit your needs or use it as an activity with individual residents to build up your own collage.

If you have any innovative and creative ways that you are using to help meet the needs of your residents, please let us know. We have heard of homes using technology to keep up resident and family connections, screening old movies and avoiding the news about COVID-19. If you have any you'd like to share with us, please email tewv.chad.york@nhs.net

COVID-19 Guidance and Resources

Recognising and Responding to Deterioration in Residents and Clients- **Workbook Now Available**

This training programme offered through the CCG is now available in workbook form. The training is appropriate to both new and experienced staff and is useful to providers who have already had face to face training. The aim of the training is to assist staff in recognising and responding to ANY deterioration (including but not limited to Covid-19). Following this training is designed to equip ALL staff with knowledge and tools to communicate deterioration promptly to teams, GP, YAS and other health and social care services

For more information please see this [flyer](#), or contact kay.ford3@nhs.net

Capacity Tracker Updating Guidance

Thank you to all care homes for keeping their bed vacancies and business continuity/COVID reporting on the tracker up to date. A reminder to update these daily by 9:00 where possible, and to ensure the business continuity section is updated as this is used for national reporting as well as the CCG and local authorities.

NECS have produced a helpful [user guide](#) which may be useful if you need guidance on updating business continuity.

If you have any further queries about the tracker, please contact sam.varo@nhs.net or your local authority system champion (Sarah l'Anson for CYC, Steve Crutchley for NYCC or Dorothy Montgomerie for East Riding Council)

Staff and Resident Swabbing

Residents in Care Homes

- To arrange testing kits for residents please phone PHE on 0113 386 0300 this phone number will connect you to the Yorkshire and Humber Health Protection Team (HPT). When phoning there is quite a long message however please wait for the last option which is to 'stay on the line to be connected' this will then enable you to speak to one of the HPT nurses.
- The HPT nurse will require a few details from you; including the name of the care home, address, number of swabs required etc. Once this has been completed the nurse will then arrange for swabbing kits to be delivered direct to the care home.
- When the results are returned, please can homes share the results with the residents own GP , as they don't have any other way of accessing this information
- A useful poster outlining this process can be found through this link.

Key workers in regulated care provision

- CQC are contacting regulated providers directly about arrangements in place for testing staff.

COVID-19 Training and Resources- Updated

Please find through this [link](#) an updated list from Health Education England of training currently available, updated versions of this will be circulated to providers. Skills for Care also have a comprehensive section on fully-funded training on their website relating to Rapid Induction, Care Certificate and other skills-based training specific for our sector – again this is being updated and refreshed on a daily basis and can be accessed [here](#)

There are also details of [further training and resources](#) for care providers through the Six Steps to Success in End of Life Care Programme

Further Information

Verification of Expected Death

The CCG are asking care homes if their staff would benefit from training in verifying expected death. If this is something your home would benefit from please contact clive.nicholson@nhs.net

The slides presented by Dr Helen Ward at Thursday's Project ECHO can be found through this [link](#) and provide a good refresher.

Community Equipment and Wheelchair Update

Please find through this [link](#), the second edition of the Community Equipment and Wheelchair Newsletter. This edition details the process for same day deliveries, and for keeping Medequip staff safe during the outbreak.

Also available is [out of hours process](#) which will also be relevant for May Bank Holiday.

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 or sam.varo@nhs.net