



Tuesday 18 May 2021

## 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 Independent Care Provider colleagues.

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



## Vitamin D Food Supplement Update

Please find through this [link](#), information for care homes about the ongoing use of vitamin D 10 micrograms food supplements once the free supply from DHSC comes to an end.



## Shortages in Community Equipment in York and North Yorkshire

Due to factors beyond Medequip's control there are shortages in some community equipment products, to ensure patients have ongoing access to equipment we need to request equipment not being used be returned to Medequip so it can be recycled for someone else to gain use of.

Any Community Equipment (issued from Medequip Assistive Technology) not being used at patients homes or at Care/Nursing/Residential Homes by the prescribed patient please return these to Medequip.

There are a number of ways in which you can support by:

- The patient/carer/family member to call Medequip direct to ask for the item(s) to be collected, 01423 226240 or they can email [north.yorks@medequip-uk.com](mailto:north.yorks@medequip-uk.com). It would be really helpful to provide the barcode numbers that are on each item, so Medequip are aware of which items they are collecting.
- Patients/family members can also be directed to Amnesty Bins, where unused loans equipment can be left for Medequip to collect; there is one at York Hospital or at Archways site.
- If you are a Prescriber or professional you can raise a collection on TCES against the items on the patient record. Please check out the document library if you are unsure how to do this.

Thank you for your help to keep York and North Yorkshires patient population safe, at home and as independent as they can be.



## Patient Safety Alert- Starch Thickeners

The MHRA has issued a [safety alert](#) around Polyethylene glycol (PEG) laxatives and starch-based thickeners and their potential interactive effect when mixed, leading to an increased risk of aspiration. We have also had a [resource](#) shared with us around thickening agents/thickened fluids and how they interact with medicines which may be helpful to you.

## COVID-19: Deaths of Employees and Volunteers in the Adult Social Care Sector

Michelle Dyson, Director General for Adult Social Care, Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has [written to all local authorities and social care providers](#), encouraging employers to tell DHSC about the deaths of all workers in the adult social care sector, regardless of role or employer, including volunteers. DHSC is committed to doing all it can to ensure that employers, families, and the people who they cared for are given the support they need. Completing this information ensures their response remains as effective as possible.

If you have any queries regarding this process, please send them to

[ASCcovidinform@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:ASCcovidinform@dhsc.gov.uk).

[You can read the letter here, which shares how you can submit this information.](#)

## Need to know



## Trainee Nursing Associates- Happy International Nurses Day

Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust have shared this [message](#) written by Paul and Ellie who are training nursing associates (TNA's) working across their care homes and services in York. In it, they reflect on their experiences of managing the challenges of the last year alongside their study as well as the opportunities the role has provided them. The TNA programme allows staff to bridge the gap between healthcare assistants and registered nurses, combining study days and experience in different setting with the day job to help develop their knowledge and skills. Paul and Ellie have used this learning and experience from residential care to support the Independent Living Service during an outbreak earlier in the year. The advert for the next intake of TNA's is due very shortly and will be shared with providers through the bulletin.

## Heatwave Plans 2021

Public Health England have confirmed that the heatwave plan for England remains unchanged from last year. There are additional considerations for COVID, which are outlined in a powerpoint presentation and there are some useful resources aimed specifically at the Aged Care sector which can be found along with the plan through this [link](#).

## Guide to Mental Health and Wellbeing in York

You can [download](#) the 4th edition of the '*Guide to Mental Health and Wellbeing in York*'. The free guide, collated by **Healthwatch York** is available to anyone in York who wants to know more about the help available for people experiencing mental ill health. Printed copies available by emailing: [healthwatch@yorkcvs.org.uk](mailto:healthwatch@yorkcvs.org.uk).



## Hairdressing Guidance Update

Please find through this [link](#), guidance on enabling hairdressing in care homes which has been created by North Yorkshire County Council in partnership with the Independent Care Group.

---

## Get Involved in the Nursing and Midwifery Council's Consultation on New Draft Standards for Community and Public Health Nursing

Nurses working in the community deliver excellent care every day, across a range of settings including people's homes, hospices, care homes, prisons, schools, workplaces, GP surgeries and clinics. The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) has been working with people who receive this care, nurses and other groups to develop new standards to reflect how modern care is delivered by these nurses.

The NMC wants to hear from you via an online survey. Your views will help them develop new standards that will shape the education and ongoing development of community and public health nurses, seeking to improve people's wellbeing.

You can [find out more about the consultation on the NMC website](#). You can download the draft standards, all the supporting information and access the survey. The consultation is open until **Monday 2 August 2021**



### Partners in Care Virtual Forum

This week's Partners in Care Virtual Forum, will take place on **Thursday 20 May from 2.00-2.45**. These sessions are designed to provide support with the latest guidance, updates from across health and social care and a chance to ask questions of both health professionals and fellow care sector colleagues. Topics planned for this week's session include an update from YAS around their dementia strategy, City of York Council's deconditioning campaign and a study around parents with learning disabilities.

The sessions are shaped by our care providers so if you have anything you would like to raise for this meeting please get in touch.

All care providers and partners agencies are welcome at the forum, please contact [sam.varo@nhs.net](mailto:sam.varo@nhs.net) if you don't have the calendar invite.

## Training and Development Opportunities

### Proxy Ordering of Medications in Care Homes Webinar

**When: Thursday 20 May 1.00-2.00**

NHS England and Improvement are hosting a webinar which will provide an overview of proxy ordering, the resources available to care homes to get started and where to find them, local contacts and an opportunity to ask questions. Guest speakers will also be discussing how they implemented proxy ordering in their home and the benefits they have experienced.

To book please follow this [link](#)

### Cancer Champions Awareness Session

The Humber, Coast and Vale Cancer Alliance has released new dates for their virtual Cancer Champion training sessions to help raise awareness of signs and symptoms of cancer to encourage early detection within local communities. The 90-minute sessions are available to both organisations and individuals across Hull, York, East Riding of Yorkshire, Scarborough and Ryedale.

To book please follow this [link](#)

## Further Information

### COVID-19 Vaccination FAQ's

Please through this [link](#) updated FAQ's produced by North Yorkshire County Council. These cover questions you and your staff may have about the vaccine including:

- Why should I get a COVID-19 Vaccine?
- I'm worried that the vaccines aren't safe
- Do I need two doses?
- What's the difference between the 3 vaccines?
- I'm pregnant, should I still have the vaccine?

### Applications for Queen's Nurse Are Now Open

The application process to become a Queen's Nurse via The Queen's Nursing Institute is now live. Details including guidance on how to register for a Unique Reference Number, general criteria, and application process can be [found here](#).

**The deadline for applications and all supporting contributions is 5pm on 15 June 2021.**

**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)