



Medicines Matters

Spring 2026 (Volume 19 Issue 1)

Welcome to Medicines Matters! This bulletin is published regularly for all groups of staff working within the diverse range of services within Coventry & Warwickshire Partnership Trust. The bulletin aims to update staff on matters related to the Trust's Medicines Policy, and to highlight issues of current therapeutic interest. Electronic copies are available on the Trust internet. Underlined words are hyperlinks to relevant documents.

Current Therapeutic Interest

Drugs and Therapeutics Updates

The recent Drugs and Therapeutics Meetings have seen the reapproval of two [Medicines Manual Guidance \(MMG\)](#) documents. All are now uploaded on our webpages. A [summary of all the MMGs](#) is available.

MMG	Changes
16 Supply of medicines on discharge	New log to record TTO storage and supply At discharge, all patients should already have good knowledge about their medicines (within their capacity to understand)
28 Clinical trials	No changes

Other Guidance approved/noted at D&T and available on our webpages - please click to see full documents:

- [Temperature Monitoring SOPS](#) have been updated (Rooms storing stock medication and Pharmaceutical Fridges) – please check you are familiar with the updated guidance
- [Missed Dose audit](#) – key points: Never leave administration boxes blank. Review medicines/doses that are repeatedly refused (incl. if patient asleep). Seek medicines supply if out of stock (check emergency cupboards/timely ordering)
- [POMH Clozapine Audit](#) – key points: ensure physical health monitoring/side-effect assessment is undertaken in line with [guidance](#) and documented. Off label prescribing must always be discussed and documented.

Good Practice Points for Local Action:

- **Emergency cupboard stock lists** have been reviewed and updated to reflect current [APC guidance for antibiotic prescribing](#). Note: **nitrofurantoin** is now first line for urinary infections - trimethoprim is no longer on the stock lists
- **To ensure continuity of care** ensure **clear and timely communication** to primary care at review or discharge
- **Emergency leave dispensing** – for unplanned leave outside of pharmacy opening hours see [MMG7](#). This includes an algorithm to guide the process. Note **CDS are excluded** and CAN NOT be dispensed under this guidance

Drug Safety Update:

Pregabalin, Gabapentin, Benzodiazepines and Z-Drugs – Following a review by the MHRA (Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency) the Summary of Product Characteristics, Patient Information Leaflets and Outer Packaging of these medicines will have strengthened warnings to better communicate **the risks of addiction, dependency, withdrawal and tolerance** to healthcare professionals and patients. Updates are in progress and will be rolled out over coming months.

- **Prior to starting treatment** with these medicines, a discussion should be held with patients to put in place a strategy for reducing or ending treatment
- NICE (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence) have produced a [visual resource](#) to support this

SPC Updates (Source [EMC](#)):

- **Methylphenidate**—SPCs updated as a result of a periodic safety update by the European Medicines Agency which noted that there have been reports of increased intraocular pressure IOP and glaucoma associated with methylphenidate treatment. **An ophthalmologist should be consulted** and discontinuation considered if IOP increases and those with existing IOP/glaucoma should be monitored. **Obsessive-compulsive disorder** (including irresistible urge to pull out body hair or skin picking) is also associated with methylphenidate treatment. The Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC) considers a causal relationship between methylphenidate and these adverse effects is at least a reasonable possibility.
- **Metrogel (metronidazole) 0.75% w/w Gel**. Cockayne syndrome, a rare genetic disorder, added as contraindication due to reports of severe hepatotoxicity/acute hepatic failure (including cases with a fatal outcome) with very rapid onset after treatment initiation with products containing metronidazole for systemic use.
- **Levetiracetam (Keppra) oral solution**: Risk of medication error due to change of dosing syringe. A new 5mL dosing syringe (delivering up to 500mg) will replace the 3mL syringe (up to 300mg). When dispensing, caregivers should be informed about the change in volume, the correct dose and how to measure it using the 5mL syringe. Both sizes may be available at the same time
- **Epilim (sodium valproate) Syrup 200 mg/5 ml** should not be diluted before use.

- For further information/comments/queries please contact the Medicines Management Team at Wayside House on 024 76536836
- Partnership Trust Chief Pharmacist - Sarfraz Bolia (sarfraz.bolia@covwarkpt.nhs.uk)
- Newsletter authors - Trust Clinical Governance Pharmacists - Heather Beadle/Tracy Ewing (clingov.pharmacist@covwarkpt.nhs.uk)

Medicines Matters Top Topic - Responding to the CQC Report

A recent CQC review identified a few recommendations for improving adherence to Medicines Management Governance. This article highlights the areas and details solutions to ensure that we can work to ensure quality of patient care and optimise patient safety.

Overarching recommendations:

- ❖ Improvement of staff awareness and engagement with **MMGs (Medicines Manual Guidance)** which are available on [intranet](#)
 - ❖ Review the ‘**MMG chapter and description page**’ to see a brief description of each MMG
 - ❖ Review the MMGs pertinent to your role
- ❖ Engagement with **Medicines Management Training** (booked via [Talent](#)). [Other training opportunities](#) also available



MEDICINES MANAGEMENT TRAINING

THIS TRAINING IS AIMED AT REGISTERED NURSES AND NURSING ASSOCIATES.


TOPICS COVERED INCLUDE: MEDICINES POLICY, PHARMACOKINETICS, MEDICINES INCIDENTS AND CALCULATIONS

SESSION SUITABLE FOR NEWLY QUALIFIED NURSES/NURSING ASSOCIATES AND EXPERIENCED NURSES/NURSING ASSOCIATES WHO WOULD LIKE AN UPDATE

BOOK A PLACE VIA THE TALENT PLATFORM

ALL SESSIONS ARE DELIVERED BETWEEN 9:30AM - 13:00PM ON MST

NHS
Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust

Issue Identified	Actions taken
Evidence of non-adherence to guidance on shortened expiry e.g. eye drops, creams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poster created illustrating the required standard for the completion of shortened expiry dates and distributed to all wards • Review of labels for shortened expiry dates to include the expiry date not just date opened 
Lack of audit trail for PODs (Patient's Own Drugs) and TTOs/ medicines for disposal	<p>Creation of new log forms for support the Safe and Secure audit trail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PODs (Patients own drugs) log to record receipt, storage, hand out/disposal of PODs. PODs are patients own medications brought in from home (<i>not to be confused with medicines dispensed by our pharmacy for patient specific use as an inpatient</i>). See also updated MMG 25 • TTO log for leave/discharge medication. This to records the receipt of TTOs from Pharmacy and the removal of TTOs from TTO cupboard. See also updated MMG16
Medicines incidences involving missed doses suggesting staff lacked knowledge on how to access medicines (notably antibiotics and clozapine)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWPT Dispensing Pharmacy pack reviewed and updated • Emergency Drug Cupboard (EDC) stock lists reviewed and updated – stock lists for all units are also available on the intranet • Request for OOH (out of hours) medicines algorithm developed • Guidance is available for Clozapine titration and monitoring – community and inpatient

The [2025 Safe and Secure Audit](#) report findings were recently shared at the CWPTs Drugs and Therapeutics March meeting, Reviewing 38 standards around Medicines Governance. This audit gives evidence that CWPT areas are working closely to the expected standards identified in the Royal Pharmaceutical Society guidance on the Safe and Secure Handling of Medicines. Adhering to these standards helps to ensure that, with respect to the handling of medication, our Trust's patients are receiving a safe and quality medication service.

- ✓ **32/38 standards** were rated as ‘**Good Adherence**’ • 100% compliance was achieved in 24 standards
- ❖ Three areas were highlighted as improving but requiring focus and support – [Expiry dates](#), [temperature monitoring](#) and [pharmaceutical waste](#) – [click topics](#) to see summary of recommendations

- For further information/comments/queries please contact the Medicines Management Team at Wayside House on 024 76536836
- Partnership Trust Chief Pharmacist - Sarfraz Bolia (sarfraz.bolia@covwarkpt.nhs.uk)
- Newsletter authors - Trust Clinical Governance Pharmacists - Heather Beadle/Tracy Ewing (clingov.pharmacist@covwarkpt.nhs.uk)