

Assessment for Re-Use of a Specific Individual's Medicine during the Covid-19 Pandemic

Name of Medicine being considered for re-use:

Belonging to (Resident's Name):

Criteria to be considered before the medicine can be re-used

	Yes	No	Notes
Is the medicine in an unopened pack or blister that has not been tampered with?			<p>In an unopened, unadulterated and sealed pack (including sub-pack) or blister strip.</p> <p>If any doses have already been used, the remainder of that blister strip should be destroyed.</p> <p>If the contents (including blister strips and sealed individual units such as ampoules) are completely intact, then as long as they match the description on the packaging they were retrieved from (including check of batch numbers) they can be considered for re-use.</p>
Is it in date?			<p>Medicines should be in date. If expired, they will need to be returned to a pharmacy/ destroyed following existing disposal procedures in your medicines policy.</p>

	Yes	No	Notes
Has it been stored in line with the manufacturer's instructions, including any need for refrigeration?			Any medication that requires refrigeration, or that has a reduced shelf-life once removed from refrigerated storage, should be destroyed if it has not been stored appropriately. Medicines left in unsuitable conditions (e.g. direct sunlight, near radiators) or where appropriate storage cannot be confirmed, should be destroyed.
Is the medicine a licensed medicine that has either been prescribed by a registered healthcare professional with prescribing rights or bought 'over the counter'?			For some medicines, 'homely remedies' are an option in care homes and should be considered in line with guidance: https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/rmoc-guidance-homely-remedies/

Discuss your findings with a registered healthcare professional, who will be required to sign the authorising forms with you.

If the answer to all of the above questions is **yes**, then the risk of re-use may be judged to be minimal. If the answer to **any question** is **no** then the medicine should not be re-used. If doubt remains, discuss with appropriate registered healthcare professionals and local networks to get a wider perspective on the decision.

Minimise risk of cross-contamination

	Yes	No	Notes
Is the medicine from a resident with a diagnosis of Covid-19 or showing symptoms of Covid-19?			<p>Ensure that adequate infection prevention and control precautions have been taken.</p> <p>Medicine that has been retrieved from a resident infected with Covid-19 should be sealed (double bagged) and quarantined for five days*. A “do not process before date” should be fixed to the bag before the bag is stored safely and away from any other medicines.</p>

Ensuring permission is obtained and residents, families and/or carers are fully involved

	Yes	No	Notes
If a medicine is thought to be suitable for re-use, permission should, if possible, be obtained for re-use from the resident for whom it was prescribed or (if the resident lacks capacity) from a person with power of attorney, or (if the resident has died) from their next of kin.			<p>If the resident has become responsible for the safe keeping of the medicine, it is the property of the resident (although not their exclusive responsibility), but if the medicine is still in the safe custody of the care home or hospice care provider, whether the final supply to the resident has been completed is the subject of differing legal views. Reflecting this uncertainty, if possible, ensure the resident or their next of kin agrees for the medicine to be re-used.</p>
Has a letter of agreement been signed?			See Form 1

*See box “**Quarantine of Contaminated Medicines**” on page 12 for further details.

Quarantine of Contaminated Medicines

The original DHSC guidance made reference to both a 3 day and 5-day quarantine period for contaminated medicine. This has now been revised to only make mention of a 3-day quarantine

The guidance in this Opus document is guided by both the original DHSC and existing guidance from the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS). Link below:

[Accepting returned unused medicines](#)

Because of this disparity between current DHSC guidance and RPS guidance, we are erring on the side of caution and continuing with a 5-day quarantine recommendation.

Please apply any specific local CCG guidance where this may differ.

Decision

This medicine is suitable for re-use

This medicine is **NOT** suitable for re-use

Signature: _____

Manager

Signature: _____

Registered Healthcare
Professional

Name: _____

(State details e.g.
profession/role/reg no.)