



Managing Medicines in a Step-Down or Designated Setting - January 2021

Following the latest collaborative guidance released by the Department of Health and Social Care, Public Health England, Care Quality Commission, and NHS England entitled:

[“Discharge into care homes: designated settings”](#)

Local Authorities and CCGs may be involved with the set up of “designated or step-down settings.”

The Rationale:

- ➔ The guidance aims to support the safe discharge of people leaving hospital who have tested positive for Covid-19 and to protect care home residents and staff from infection (see full guidance document for details)
- ➔ This is part of the wider government efforts to minimise the risks of spread and transmission of Covid-19.
- ➔ The premises of the designated setting must meet agreed standards to complete the 14-day isolation period
- ➔ The scheme will be delivered by Local Authorities and CCGs.



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The Requirements:

- ➔ CQC require each designated setting to have:
 - **Policies and procedures**
 - Equipment
 - Appropriate staffing levels
 - Appropriate skill mix
 - **Training**

to maintain infection control and to support the care needs of residents
e.g. **administration of medicines.**

The Challenges:

- ➔ The existing medicines policy is either non-existent or not fit for purpose for the new setting
- ➔ Staff have been redeployed so are not familiar with the new setting e.g. if they have transferred from a day service
- ➔ Staff are working under challenging circumstances - e.g. donning and doffing PPE
- ➔ The service needs to be safe and CQC compliant with a good or outstanding rating
- ➔ Short timescale for roll out
- ➔ Level of demand particularly over the winter months



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How OPUS can help:

- 1** **POLICY** - Opus can prepare a comprehensive medicines policy with visual flow chart procedures for all medicines-related tasks

- 2** **TRAINING** - Safe Handling of Medicines Foundation for Care Homes
 - ➔ For All Staff: [Safe Handling of Medicines E-learning or Virtual Learning](#)
 - ➔ For Managers and Senior Staff:
 - To update them on latest procedures and guidelines: [Safe Handling of Medicines Foundation E-learning or Virtual Learning](#)
 - To assess competency of their staff: [Assessors Workshop for Medicines Handling or Advanced Distance Learning Workbook](#)
 - ➔ For Senior Staff: [Transcribing Distance Learning Workbook](#)

- 3** **COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT** can either be undertaken in-service by designated Managers and senior staff using a paper-based competency assessment tool OR using the [Online Foundation Competency Assessment](#) for new staff or the [Online Advanced Competency Assessment](#) for existing or more experienced staff.



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How OPUS can help:

4 SUPPORTING THE CARE NEEDS OF PEOPLE

Needs	Training Resource
Older people prescribed warfarin	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Administration of Warfarin Distance Learning Workbook
Older people / people with a learning disability who have a swallowing difficulty	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supporting People with Swallowing Difficulties (Dysphagia) Distance Learning Workbook
People with a learning disability prescribed Buccal Midazolam	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Buccal Midazolam & Epilepsy Distance Learning Workbook
People with mental health needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding Medicines in Depression & Bipolar Disorder Distance Learning Workbook• Understanding Medicines in Schizophrenia Distance Learning Workbook• Understanding Medicines in Anxiety & Sleep Disorders Distance Learning Workbook
People with dementia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding Medicines in Dementia Distance Learning Workbook
People with diabetes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding Medicines in Diabetes Distance Learning Workbook
People with Parkinson's Disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding Medicines in Parkinson's Disease Distance Learning Workbook


5 INFECTION CONTROL

We have [3-hour Infection Control courses](#) available with a Pharmacist Trainer via Zoom or Teams



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To find out more about the different training options
and formats available, please contact one of our
friendly team:

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