

CARE HOME NEWS

MEDICATION WASTE

It has been estimated that £300 million of NHS prescribed medicines are wasted each year. £50 million worth of NHS supplied medicines are disposed of unused by care homes. We all have a responsibility to ensure that we make good use of NHS resources.

TIPS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Ensure you are not over-ordering; check all storage areas before requesting fresh supplies. Check main medicines cupboard/trolley e.g. dressings, catheters, nutritional supplements.

Not all **unused** medicines have to be returned to the pharmacy at the end of each monthly cycle; the pharmacy cannot re-use them. All medicines should be carried forward and not re-ordered each month if not needed. Always check the expiry date on the packaging.

'As required' or 'prn' medicines will often last more than a month; check whether additional stock is required or whether existing supplies can be used and marked as carried forward on the Medication Administration Record (MAR) chart.

Creams and ointments have different suggested 'use by' date after opening. Please refer to the care home guidance Topical Medication and Application for more information on our website:

<https://westhampshireccg.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Topical-medication-and-application-record-sheet-approved.pdf>

Questions or comments?

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Please refer to our website for further information and guidance:

<https://gp-portal.westhampshireccg.nhs.uk/medicines/care-homes-meds/>

