Scottish Guidance for Repurposing Medicines in Care Homes and Hospices

Steering Group

Terms of Reference

Purpose

To develop temporary guidance on repurposing medicines within care homes in the context of COVID-19 to allow immediate treatment where access to medication is not possible via all other routes. The guidance may be considered for adoption in the hospice setting.

Background

The Care Inspectorate and the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) have issued a joint statement advising that while repurposing medicines prescribed for someone else is not normally acceptable, during the COVID-19 outbreak if there is no other option available, it is an ethical and moral step that may be considered.

The joint statement notes that repurposing decisions should be taken within a local governance framework that includes undertaking a risk assessment and making a record of the decision. This NHS Scotland (+/- Care Inspectorate) guidance is being developed to support such a governance framework.

Role and Remit

The remit of the Repurposing Medicines Steering Group is:

- To review NHS England and NHS Improvement Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) standard operating procedure on Running a medicines re-use scheme in a care home or hospice setting and consider key elements for adoption in Scotland
- To review examples of processes already operating in Scotland to support re-use of patients’ medicines
- To develop temporary guidance to support repurposing for consideration and adoption in care homes in Scotland during the COVID-19 outbreak period (final draft by Thursday 7th May 2020).
- To develop guidance that sits alongside other activities to minimise waste of medicines
- To develop guidance that is generic such that it could be considered for adoption in the hospice setting

Membership

- Ian Rudd – Director of Pharmacy (NHS Highland) – Chair
- David Marshall – Pharmacy Improvement Advisor (Care Inspectorate)
- Helen Lindsay – Clinical Advisor Pharmacist (HIS)
- Noreen Downes – Principal Pharmacist (HIS)
- Laura Byrne – Lead Pharmacist (NHS Forth Valley representing WoS Health Boards and Primary Care)
- George Lindsay – Chief Pharmacist (NHS Lanarkshire, Primary Care)
Meetings and reporting arrangements

- The group will meet on Tuesday 5th and Thursday 7th May 2020
- The group sits within the Area Drug and Therapeutics Collaborative (ADTCC) governance mechanism
- Stakeholder engagement – Directors of Pharmacy (DoPs) group, Scottish Association of Medical Directors, Scottish Executive of Nurse Directors, Scottish Care, SSSC and Care Inspectorate
- The DoPs group will be asked to verify their support for the final output before issuing via the ADTCC
- DoPs to progress approval through appropriate local Board governance system. This will allow for local discussion with social care services within Integrated Joint Boards and approval for adoption within Health and Social Care Partnership care homes. (NHS Health Boards hold the responsibility for medication governance within IJBs)
- Private care home providers are required to ensure the process is signed off by the appropriate care home governance process.
- Audit the uptake and implementation of the guidance before its next review date and advise HIS/DoPs of any recommended changes to the guidance.
- Undertake a review of the guideline as requested by HIS/DoPs.