

care home charter for medicines (adults)

When I am staying in a care home, I expect the people responsible for my care to:

- 1 Actively involve me in decisions about my medicines
- 2 Help and support me to make shared decisions about my medicines
- 3 Involve me in regular monitoring and review of my medications and make sure I understand why this is being done
- 4 Make sure that medicines are given to me in a form and route appropriate to my needs and abilities
- 5 Make sure that medicines will only be given with my consent unless I lack the capacity to do so
- 6 Respect the advance decisions or directives I make regarding refusing medicines
- 7 Make sure that medicines are not given to me hidden in my food or drink unless it is in my best interests and all legal requirements have been met
- 8 Examine my mouth to ensure that my oral health needs are being met
- 9 Recognise when I am unable to swallow safely

As a professional working in a care home, I must have the requisite knowledge and skills to:

- 1 Identify and respect the resident's wishes and beliefs about medication
- 2 Involve and support the resident and/or those important to them to make shared decisions about medication
- 3 Involve the resident I care for in regular medicines optimisation reviews by a multidisciplinary team
- 4 Assess, monitor, administer and review medication to ensure that the resident receives medication safely and in an appropriate form and route
- 5 Only administer medicines in line with local covert medication policy and the guidance of the Court of Protection
- 6 Make sure an advance care plan, which includes medication, is in place for the resident, with a regular review when their condition changes
- 7 Work with other members of the multidisciplinary team to ensure that the resident's medication needs are met
- 8 Make sure that optimal oral and dental care is provided for residents
- 9 Recognise and manage swallowing problems to ensure appropriate referrals are made

The charter relates to NICE guidance 'Managing medicines in care homes' SC1 2014.

This document was developed by a specialist panel comprised of nurses, pharmacists, specialist speech and language therapists, care of the elderly physicians, an expert in healthcare law, care home staff and the Patients Association. The project to develop the charter was funded by an unrestricted educational grant from Rosemont Pharmaceuticals who had no role in the design of the project, in the collection of or analysis of data. The intellectual rights remain the property of the Patients Association. The charter was piloted in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

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