

**Consultation
Response Form**

Your name:
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Royal Pharmaceutical Society

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National action plan to prevent the abuse of older people

1. Do you agree that the three overall objectives are appropriate? If not, what should they be?

Agree Strongly
Tend to Agree

Disagree strongly
Tend to Disagree

Unsure

Please comment:

2. Are the specific issues facing older people in respect of potential abuse and neglect captured appropriately and set out in a clear and useful way? If not, what else should be captured (and how)?

Yes

No

Unsure

Please comment:

3. Are approaches to meeting the care and support needs of older people at risk of abuse or neglect set out in a clear and useful way?

Agree Strongly ✓ Tend to Agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree strongly <input type="checkbox"/> Tend to Disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>
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Please comment:

4. Do you agree that the Action Plan addresses the major risk factors facing older people at risk of abuse or neglect? If not, what else should be addressed?

Agree Strongly ✓ Tend to Agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree strongly <input type="checkbox"/> Tend to Disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>
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Please comment:

5. We would like to know your views on the effects that the Welsh Government Action Plan on Preventing the Abuse of Older People would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English. What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

Please comment:

The Welsh Government Action Plan recognises the need to improve access to support for people speaking Welsh as their first language through CIW national review. Consideration could be given to staff employed within a care setting to undertake a 'basic' Welsh language course as part of their development, to enable a basic level of the Welsh language to be understood and spoken.

6. We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them:

Please comment:

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) Wales welcomes the opportunity to respond to the consultation on the 'National action plan to prevent the abuse of older people'.

This RPS supports the proposed actions the Welsh Government will take to prevent the abuse and neglect of older people in Wales, recognising the role pharmacists play in the care of older people through medicines administration.

The consultation highlights throughout the important role pharmacists, as the experts in medicines, play and the potential for greater pharmacist input in the care of older people in a variety of settings.

Care Homes

The pharmacy team; pharmacists and registered pharmacy technicians, have significant expertise to support medicines management and safe administration for all care home residents as part of a multidisciplinary team approach. Regular medicines reviews from a pharmacist should be available to all people with a chronic condition such as dementia, including those living in care homes, to help optimise individual medication regimes. The changing and evolving role of pharmacists offers significant opportunities to improve care in Wales, utilising the skills of pharmacist independent prescribers in multidisciplinary teams has the potential to improve the care of care home residents. At the RPS we welcome Care Inspectorate Wales's (CIW) findings in relation to medicines management being an area for improvement, particularly in relation to antipsychotic medication. This is also one of RPS Wales's key recommendations set out in our policy document, '[Improving medicines use for care home residents](#)'. The document includes five key themes identified as areas for immediate support from pharmacy teams which may be of interest to Welsh Government. These are: polypharmacy, antipsychotic prescribing, safe transfer of information, education training and standards, palliative end of life care. The consultation acknowledges the secondment of a pharmacist to CIW provides an opportunity to develop relationships with pharmacy colleagues to support improvement in services, the RPS would advocate for this on a permanent basis.

CIW's findings also included a recommendation that 'Work needs to be undertaken to improve hospital discharge for people living with dementia, there is a clear need for improved hospital discharge processes'. The pharmacy 'discharge medicines review' service provides support to patients recently discharged between care settings by ensuring that changes to patients' medicines made in one care setting (e.g. during a hospital admission) are enacted as intended in the community helping to reduce the risk of preventable medicines related problems and supporting adherence with newly prescribed medication. For this service to be fully effective, the capability to produce and share electronic discharge letters must be available through all hospital and care settings.

Welsh Government's long term vision for pharmacy, [Pharmacy: Delivering a Healthier Wales](#), states as one of its goals; *Pharmacy teams will be leading the medicines discharge from hospital with ongoing support from their community pharmacist.*

Domiciliary Care

The consultation states '*We will continue to work with the Medication Administration in Domiciliary Care (MADC) working group, comprising Welsh Government officials and stakeholders which is trying to establish national practice and training with regard to domiciliary care and medication administration*'.

It is essential that pharmacists and their representative bodies, as the experts in medicines, are part of any discussions to help guide good national practice.

Community Pharmacies

Community Pharmacies are fundamental to the local population they serve, often the first port of call for advice and treatment, pharmacies are a key part of neighbourhood health services. Trusted and respected by the community and viewed as a safe environment, pharmacy teams often know their patients well and are perfectly placed for identifying when things may not be right. With appropriate training and ongoing support, community pharmacies have the necessary reach and skills to appropriately identify, signpost and report concerns to ensure the best care for their patients.



Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here:

