**Useful Resources for Pharmacy Colleagues Working with Care Homes**

**This list provides a range of resources to support pharmacy colleagues working with care homes. It includes clinical tools for holistic and specialist structured medication reviews, as well as process and policy-related resources to aid medicines management and audits.**

Please use these resources with discretion, as their relevance may vary across different regions of the UK and specific care home settings. Additionally, some resources are subject to frequent review and may become outdated over time.

**Care Choices** – Care Home Directory (Select “care homes” and location/area for information about care homes in that area)

<https://www.carechoices.co.uk/>

**Specialist Pharmacy Service** - Care Home / Polypharmacy / Medication Review Resources:

* SPS - Covert administration of medicines: legal issues

<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/covert-administration-of-medicines-legal-issues/#:~:text=care%20home>

* SPS - Thickeners and thickened fluids

<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/thickeners-and-thickened-fluids/#:~:text=care%20home>

* SPS - Why and how medicines are given with soft food or thickened fluid

<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/why-and-how-medicines-are-given-with-soft-food-or-thickened-fluid/#:~:text=care%20home>

* SPS - Choosing medicines formulations in swallowing difficulties

<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/choosing-medicines-formulations-in-swallowing-difficulties/#:~:text=care%20home>

* SPS - Advising how to crush or disperse tablets and open capsules

<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/advising-how-to-crush-or-disperse-tablets-and-open-capsules/#:~:text=care%20home>

* SPS - Medicines suitable for adults with swallowing difficulties

<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/medicines-suitable-for-adults-with-swallowing-difficulties/#:~:text=care%20home>

* SPS - Checking if medicines can be given with food

<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/checking-if-medicines-can-be-given-with-food/#:~:text=care%20home>

* SPS - Using transdermal patches safely in healthcare settings

<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/using-transdermal-patches-safely-in-healthcare-settings/#:~:text=care%20home>

* SPS - Hypotension management in frail older people

<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/hypotension-management-in-frail-older-people/#:~:text=care%20home>

* SPS - A person-centred approach to polypharmacy and medication review

<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/a-person-centred-approach-to-polypharmacy-and-medication-review/#:~:text=care%20home>

* SPS: Understanding polypharmacy, overprescribing and deprescribing

<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/understanding-polypharmacy-overprescribing-and-deprescribing/>

* SPS - Resources to support medication review

<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/resources-to-support-medication-review/#:~:text=care%20home>

**PrescQIPP – Care Homes Webkit**

Requires free sign-up. It identifies clinical and deprescribing priority with recommendations and considerations for appropriately continuing or stopping medicines. The webkit contains multiple resources useful for work with care homes.

<https://www.prescqipp.info/our-resources/webkits/care-homes/>

Includes the following:

* Bulletin 66: Care homes - Bulk prescribing
* Bulletin 300: Medication and falls
* Bulletin 305: Implementing NICE and SIGN guidelines in care homes
* Bulletin 321: Multi-compartment compliance aids
* Bulletin 240: Care homes - Emollients
* Bulletin 269: Care homes - Covert administration
* Bulletin 278: Transfer of care around medicines
* Bulletin 279: Care homes medicine optimisation
* Bulletin 291: Prescribing, ordering and receiving medicines in care homes
* Bulletin 293: Medicines administration in care homes
* Bulletin 259: Care homes/domiciliary care - Pharmacy Technician medication review and process reviews
* Bulletin 335. Care homes - Homely remedies
* Bulletin 345. Domiciliary care
* E-learning - Managing medicines in care homes 1
* E-learning - Managing medicines in care homes 2
* E-learning - Managing medicines in care homes 3

**PrescQIPP - Improving Medicines and Polypharmacy Appropriateness Clinical Tool (IMPACT)**

Requires free sign-up. It identifies clinical and deprescribing priority with recommendations and considerations for appropriately continuing or stopping medicines.

<https://www.prescqipp.info/our-resources/bulletins/bulletin-268-impact/>

**CQC: Medicines information for adult social care services:**

<https://www.cqc.org.uk/guidance-providers/adult-social-care/medicines-information-adult-social-care-services#carehome>

Includes the following:

* Good governance of medicines
* Electronic medicines administration records (eMAR) in adult social care
* National Patient Safety Alerts in adult social care
* Working with external healthcare professionals
* Medicines care plans
* Appropriate use of psychotropic medicines in adult social care
* Medicines administration records in adult social care
* Managing vaccines in care homes
* High risk medicines: clozapine
* Delegating medicines administration

**NICE SC1 - Managing medicines in care homes**

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/sc1>

**NICE NG5 - Medicines optimisation: the safe and effective use of medicines to enable the best possible outcomes**

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng5>

**NICE NG56 - Multimorbidity: clinical assessment and management**

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng56>

**NICE QS85 - Medicines management in care homes**

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs85/>

**American Geriatrics Society Beers criteria**

<https://agsjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/jgs.18372>

**British Geriatric Society Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment Toolkit**

<https://www.bgs.org.uk/resources/resource-series/comprehensive-geriatric-assessment-toolkit-for-primary-care-practitioners>

**Health Innovation Network: polypharmacy**

<https://thehealthinnovationnetwork.co.uk/programmes/medicines/polypharmacy/>

**Health Innovation Network East Midlands: Polypharmacy: Getting the balance right**

<https://healthinnovation-em.org.uk/our-work-area/polypharmacy-getting-the-balance-right/1505-polypharmacy?highlight=WyJnZXR0aW5nIiwidGhlIiwibWVkaWNhdGlvbiIsInJpZ2h0IiwiZm9yIiwiY2FyZSIsImhvbWUiXQ==>

**Department of Health and Social Care: National Overprescribing review**

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/614a10fed3bf7f05ab786551/good-for-you-good-for-us-good-for-everybody.pdf>

**NHS Scotland: Polypharmacy guidance:**

<https://www.therapeutics.scot.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Polypharmacy-Guidance-2018.pdf>

**Royal Pharmaceutical Society: Polypharmacy guide:**

<https://www.rpharms.com/recognition/setting-professional-standards/polypharmacy-getting-our-medicines-right>

**Royal Pharmaceutical Society: Working in care homes - a guide (archived)**

<https://www.rpharms.com/resources/pharmacy-guides/working-in-care-homes>

**The King’s Fund: Polypharmacy and medicines optimisation:**

<https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/insight-and-analysis/reports/polypharmacy-and-medicines-optimisation>

**CPPE - Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education:**

* CPPE: Primary care: general practice and care homes (Links to multiple resources, toolkits, and learning)

<https://www.cppe.ac.uk/gateway/pc-gpch>

* CPPE: Introduction to appropriate polypharmacy

<https://www.cppe.ac.uk/programmes/l/polypharm-e-01/>

* CPPE: Introduction to overprescribing

<https://www.cppe.ac.uk/programmes/l/op-e-01/>

**Anticholinergic Burden Calculators** (Please note different ACB calculators may score certain medicines differently – please use professional judgement) **:**

* ACBCalc - <https://www.acbcalc.com/>
* Medichec - <https://medichec.com/>

**Frailty:**

* NHS England – Electronic Frailty Index

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/clinical-policy/older-people/frailty/efi/>

* BGS: Rockwood Frailty Score:

<https://www.bgs.org.uk/sites/default/files/content/attachment/2018-07-05/rockwood_cfs.pdf>

**Local Resources**:

**Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Providingcare.net** (Please note resources on here may not be relevant to other areas): <https://providingcare.net/>