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## Reminder - BLMK ICB Medication Training for Adult Social Care

A reminder of our tiered system training offer to all Adult Social Care (ASC) staff:

### Tier 1 – Foundation knowledge eLearning training modules hosted by PrescQIPP

The following courses are available free of charge:

- ⇒ Medicines use in care homes: course 1
- ⇒ Medicines use in care homes: course 2
- ⇒ Medicines use in care homes: course 3
- ⇒ Managing medicines for adults receiving social care in the community: course 1
- ⇒ Managing medicines for adults receiving social care in the community: course 2

Please note: course 1 will be replaced with a new, updated course during November 2023. You can still enrol on the current course but will need to complete by mid-November. We will be circulating a new access code for this course when available

Please click on link for [Tier 1 flyer](#) and [logon guide](#) for guidance on how to register.

### Tier 2 – Focused on selected topics and local guidance/policies

The BLMK ICB Care Home Medicines Optimisation Team are pleased to facilitate the following online medication training sessions, for all adult social care (ASC) staff, delivered via MS Teams.

See our [ASC Medication Training – Tier 2 Flyer](#) for more information on how to join the events

<b>Homely Remedies &amp; Self-Care *delivered*</b>	<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 14:30 –15:30</b>
<b>When Required (PRN) Medication *delivered*</b>	<b>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023, 14:30 – 15:30</b>
<b>Covert Administration of Medication *delivered*</b>	<b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 14:30 – 15:30</b>
<b>Medicines Reconciliation &amp; Transfers of Care</b>	<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023, 14:30 – 15:30</b>
<b>Controlled Drugs (CDs) &amp; Regulations in Care Homes</b>	<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024, 14:30 – 15:30</b>
<b>Medication Safety, Governance &amp; Safeguarding</b>	<b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024, 14:30 – 15:30</b>

A big thank you to those that have joined our sessions, we had 200 plus staff join our last event on Covert Administration of Medication! We hope you can join us at our next “Tier 2” session on:

**[Medicines Reconciliation & Transfers of Care on Wed 15th November 2023, 14:30 – 15:30](#)**

## Tier 2 Presentation slides and BLMK ICB Guidance reviews

Please note, the presentation slides for the Tier 2 online training sessions which have already been delivered can be accessed via our care home website page link:

[Care Homes: Training Presentations – BLMKICB Medicines Management](#)

### BLMK ICB Guidance reviews:

The following BLMK ICB care home guidance documents are under review, however in the interim the current versions can continue to be used.

- [“When Required” \(PRN Medication\) - guidance for care homes](#)
- [Self care Toolkit for care homes](#)
- [Good Practice Guidance for care homes - Expiry dates for medication](#)

## BLMK ICB Tier 3 Medication Champion training - Are you interested?

### Tier 3 Medication Champion in Care homes training

#### Would you like to become a Medication Champion in your care home?

The BLMK ICB Care Home Medicines Optimisation team are looking to deliver the Tier 3 Medication Champion training as part of our 3-tiered training package for adult social care staff working in CQC registered care homes.

#### What is a Medication Champion?

A Care Home Medication Champion is a named individual within the care home who promotes best practice and empowers members of staff, as well as acting as a point of contact for healthcare professionals/practices with regards to medicines. Medication Champions have a keen interest in medicines management.

**What do you need to do to become a BLMK ICB Medication Champion?** To become a BLMK ICB Care Home Medication Champion you must complete all the CORE medication training:

- Fully complete the [Tier 1 PrescQIPP eLearning training](#)
- Attend the bitesize [Tier 2 online supplementary medication training](#) where possible
- Attend the face to face BLMK ICB Care Home Medication Champion Training day

#### What we need to know:

Our team are gathering information on staff who would like to become medication champion and attend our face-to-face training.

Please can we ask interested staff to contact the relevant care home team in their area (via email address below) and inform us if you would like to become a medication champion and attend our training:

**Bedfordshire team:** Email: [blmkicb.bedsmocarehometeam@nhs.net](mailto:blmkicb.bedsmocarehometeam@nhs.net)

(Sharon, Harprit, Lindsey, Courtenay)

**Luton team:** Email: [blmkicb.lutoncarehometeam@nhs.net](mailto:blmkicb.lutoncarehometeam@nhs.net)

(Lisa, Kaylie)

**Milton Keynes team:** Email: [blmkicb.mkcarehomespharmacy@nhs.net](mailto:blmkicb.mkcarehomespharmacy@nhs.net)

(Kasia, Hazel)

## SystemOne Online Proxy access - video resources

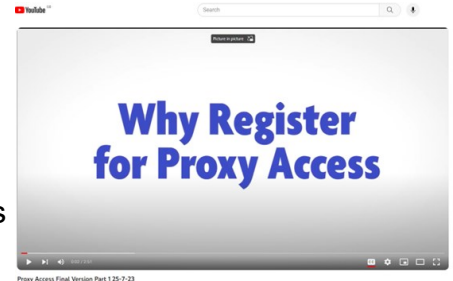
Our care home team continues to support local digital teams with the roll out of SystemOne Proxy access in care homes. This access allows the ordering of repeat medication on-line (via SystemOne) directly from the GP surgeries website.

If you would like to know more about Proxy access in care homes please watch the following YouTube videos which will explain SystemOne Proxy access and a step by step guide on how to get proxy.

**Why register for proxy access** - <https://youtu.be/PyNz8yQ8phE>

**How to get proxy** - <https://youtu.be/kNuDOU3tl08>

There is also a NHS Benefits calculator (link below) so care homes and GP practices can see how much money can be saved:



[NHS England » Ordering medication using proxy access: D19 Benefits calculator for care homes](#)

## Flu and COVID-19 autumn vaccines - reminder to staff

As you may already know, NHS England brought forward the roll out of this year's Autumn/Winter Flu and COVID-19 vaccination delivery programme. This was done as a precautionary measure to protect the most vulnerable from illness during the winter months following the identification of the COVID-19 variant BA.2.86.

Vaccination teams have been asked to ensure that all residents in care homes are vaccinated by 22nd October, so we are hoping many of your residents will now have been vaccinated.

We would also like to remind and encourage staff to book their vaccinations as early as possible via Local Booking Services, and the [National Booking Service](#) (NBS). Appointments can also be booked online on the NHS App, or by phoning 119.

For managers, there are a range of materials available which can be used to help promote vaccination uptake in staff. These include Q&A leaflets, posters and stickers which can be downloaded via the Campaign Resource Centre: [Winter Vaccinations | Campaigns | Campaign Resource Centre \(dhsc.gov.uk\)](#). Uptake of both COVID-19 and flu vaccination remains vital to the successful delivery of the campaign.

**Reference used:** [Flu and COVID-19 autumn vaccine programmes \(skillsforcare.org.uk\)](#)

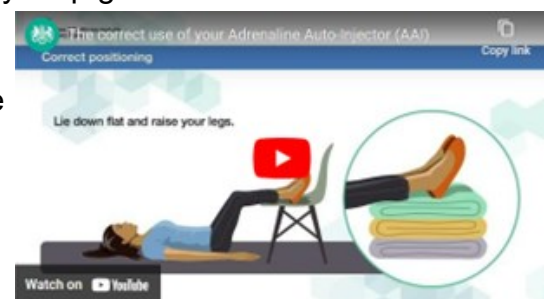
## Adrenaline auto-injectors (AAs): new guidance and resources for safe use

The MHRA has launched new guidance to highlight the latest safety advice on the steps to take during anaphylaxis. This new guidance includes an easy step-by-step guide on what to do in an emergency and provides updated advice on body positioning.

A toolkit of resources is now available for health and social care professionals to support the safe and effective use of AAs, please click on the MHRA link below:

[Adrenaline Auto-Injectors \(AAs\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

This also includes a video on the correct use of an AAI, follow the link: <https://youtu.be/4vNR5N1-iBw>



## MHRA Drug Safety alert: Hyoscine hydrobromide patches (Scopoderm®)

### **MHRA alert: Hyoscine hydrobromide patches (Scopoderm 1.5mg Patch or Scopoderm TTS Patch): risk of anticholinergic side effects, including hyperthermia.**

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) recently published a drug safety alert in regard to [Hyoscine hydrobromide patches](#).

Hyoscine hydrobromide patches are licenced for use for the prevention of motion or travel sickness. However, they are commonly used for other indications which are outside their product license. These include:

- The management of hypersecretion (excess mucus) or hypersalivation (excess saliva) e.g., patients with Parkinson's disease, patients requiring palliative care and patients with drug-induced hypersalivation
- The management of nausea and vomiting

Hyoscine hydrobromide patches are used commonly without any problems and all medicines can cause unwanted side effects, and while not everybody gets them, some side effects can be serious and even life-threatening.

There have been a small number of reports of serious and life-threatening anticholinergic side effects associated with hyoscine hydrobromide patches, particularly when used outside the licence.

It is important to be aware of the signs and symptoms of serious side effects that could be associated with hyoscine hydrobromide patches:

- ⇒ high temperature
- ⇒ inability to urinate
- ⇒ Confusion
- ⇒ Disorientation
- ⇒ seeing or hearing things that are not there
- ⇒ fits or convulsions
- ⇒ reduced consciousness
- ⇒ breathing difficulties

If these symptoms occur seek medical help by contacting your aligned GP surgery for a review, they may advise to remove the patch immediately. If there is a high temperature, take immediate action to reduce body heat in addition to seeking medical help.

If a healthcare professional advises on the removal of the patch following a review, please note, even after removal of the patch, hyoscine in the skin continues to enter the blood stream. Side effects may therefore persist for up to 24 hours or longer after patch removal.

**Reference:** [Hyoscine hydrobromide patches \(Scopoderm 1.5mg Patch or Scopoderm TTS Patch\): risk of anticholinergic side effects, including hyperthermia - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

## MHRA Drug Safety alert: Methotrexate and photosensitivity reactions

### MHRA alert: Methotrexate – advise patients to take precautions in the sun to avoid photosensitivity reactions

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) recently published a drug safety alert in regard to [Methotrexate](#).

Methotrexate is an immunosuppressant medicine that is used to treat inflammatory conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, and Crohn's disease. It is also used as a cancer treatment.

Methotrexate treatment can make the skin more sensitive to the sun and therefore sun exposure during methotrexate treatment could cause very severe reactions that look and feel like sunburn. This can occur with both high and low dose treatment.

Reactions manifest as severe sunburn such as rashes with papules or blistering, with some patients reporting swelling; rarely, photosensitivity reactions have contributed to deaths from secondary infections.

Residents on methotrexate treatment should avoid exposure to intense sunlight (especially between 11am and 3pm). They should use a sun protection product with a high protection factor when exposed to the sun and wear hat and clothes that cover arms and legs when in the sun.

Reference: [Methotrexate: advise patients to take precautions in the sun to avoid photosensitivity reactions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

## Effective MDT meetings in Care homes - new Resource pack

BLMK ICB has recently launched an interactive educational resource pack to ensure effective EHICH (Enhanced Health in Care Home) Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) meetings.

The interactive pack has been designed to support care home staff along with aligned GP practices and other teams to get the most out of care home MDT meetings, with a view to ensuring best possible person-centred care for each individual resident within care homes. The pack contains a number of bite size educational resources, including videos, assessment tools and templates.

The resource pack can be downloaded at [BLMK ICB EHICH MDT educational resource pack](#)

### Contact us:

**Bedfordshire team:** Email: [blmkicb.bedsmocarehometeam@nhs.net](mailto:blmkicb.bedsmocarehometeam@nhs.net)

**Luton team:** Email: [blmkicb.lutoncarehometeam@nhs.net](mailto:blmkicb.lutoncarehometeam@nhs.net)

**Milton Keynes team:** Email: [blmkicb.mkcarehomespharmacy@nhs.net](mailto:blmkicb.mkcarehomespharmacy@nhs.net)