

Managing medicines in care homes: Policies and Procedures

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THE GUIDELINES



Recommendation 1.2 of NICE guidance Managing medicines in care homes states that: 'Care home providers should have an up to date medicines policy, which they review, based on current legislation and the best available evidence.'

A robust medicines policy aims to avoid unsafe care and treatment as well as preventing avoidable harm. In turn this will assist providers in complying with the Care Quality Commission's expectations of Regulation 12 that care and treatment is provided in a safe way for service users.

Providers are reminded of the importance of reviewing their medicines policy to ensure that it remains fit for purpose and continues to deliver a high quality of care which meets expectations. Signed and dated documentation should exist to confirm that staff have read and understood the policy. Staff should also be made aware of any amendments and updates to the policy and clear documentation should exist confirming that they have been informed.

The guideline highlights what should be included in a medicines policy and a number of resources have been published by NICE to support providers in developing, reviewing and updating their medicines policies. Examples of these resources include:

- Baseline assessment tool
- Using quality standards to improve practice in care homes for older people
- Checklist for care home medicines policy

These as well as other useful resources may be accessed at: [Tools and resources](#)

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For further information, please contact the Medicines Management Team on
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