



The Community Pharmacy Wales response to The Health, Social Care and Sport Committee inquiry into

**The use of anti-psychotic medication in care homes**

Date: April 2017

Contact Details  
Russell Goodway  
Chief Executive  
Community Pharmacy Wales  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Caspian Point 2  
Caspian Way  
CARDIFF, CF10 4DQ  
Tel: 029 2044 2070  
E-Mail [russell.goodway@cpwales.org.uk](mailto:russell.goodway@cpwales.org.uk)

## Part 1: Introduction

Community Pharmacy Wales (CPW) represents community pharmacy on NHS matters and seeks to ensure that the best possible services, provided by pharmacy contractors in Wales, are available through NHS Wales. It is the body recognised by the Welsh Assembly Government in accordance with *Sections 83 and 85 National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006* as 'representative of persons providing pharmaceutical services'.

CPW represents all 717 community pharmacy contractors in Wales. These include all the major pharmacy multiples as well as independent businesses. Contractors are located in high streets, town centres and villages across Wales as well as in the major metropolitan centres and edge of town retail parks.

CPW is pleased that the Committee is looking at the important issue of the prescribing, management and use of anti-psychotic medication in care homes. Even with the additional support provided to residents in a care home, the frail elderly remain a vulnerable group of patients. As the demands of an ageing population continue to grow and NHS funding comes under greater pressure the temptation to turn to medication as a cheap and convenient solution to the management of behavioural and psychological issues in people living with dementia, will become even more significant over time.

CPW is concerned that, as this problem has grown, it has coincided with a decrease in the commissioning of community pharmacy care home support services and a decrease in pharmacist input into the management of medicines in care homes in general.

CPW fully supports the principles contained in *Your Care, Your Medicines* that:

*"Patients with supported living needs, whether living independently in their own homes or in a care home setting, must benefit from access to the pharmacy team to help manage their medicines effectively and to maintain their health and wellbeing."*

## Part 2: Areas to be considered by the Health, Social Care & Sport Committee

2.1 The effective prescribing and use of medicines remains the backbone of modern healthcare and CPW believe that, as pharmacists are the experts in medicines, pharmacists should be involved in all situations where medicines are prescribed, supplied and administered irrespective of the residential status of the patient.

2.2 Over a number of years CPW has witnessed the steady decommissioning of *Community Pharmacy Care Home Support Services* and this removal of much needed support has coincided with the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) policy decision to no longer directly employ pharmacists within the team.

Against a background of growing evidence of medication errors in care homes, and inappropriate use of antipsychotic medication, CPW is extremely concerned that at the very

time care homes require greater support in managing medicines, the support available to care homes has decreased significantly.

**CPW would ask the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee to review this situation as a matter of urgency and to ensure that all care homes receive regular community pharmacist advice and input into medicines management processes.**

2.3 All care homes will receive their medication from a community pharmacy of their choice and it is common for the majority of pharmacies supplying care homes to offer some level of medicines management support to care homes. This arrangement however is a private arrangement between the care home and the supplying pharmacy and as a result the nature of the support provided will vary considerably and there is no standardisation of the support provided.

CPW would recommend that, irrespective of the supply arrangements between community pharmacies and care homes, NHS Wales ensures that a more structured and formal community pharmacy care home support service is commissioned from the supplying pharmacy. In this way regular structured visits would take place, the relationship between the care home staff and the pharmacy team would be allowed to develop over time and medicines management and prescribing in areas such as anti-psychotics would be routinely monitored.

2.4 NICE guidelines recommend that the prescribing of anti-psychotic medication should be reviewed every three months. CPW understands that this is not currently the case in the majority of situations. In response, CPW would recommend that a three monthly audit of the use of anti-psychotic medication is undertaken by the supplying community pharmacy as part of the care home support service. This would ensure that regular reminders are in place when a patient requires a review and data from pharmacy care home visits would be available on a national basis to support national quality standards.

### Part 3: Conclusion

3.1 CPW would recommend that the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee ask the Welsh Government to ensure that arrangements are put in place for all care homes to receive a regular, structured, audit and advice visit, from the community pharmacy that supplies their medication and that a three-monthly audit of anti-psychotic prescribing is part of that review.

CPW agree that the content of this response can be made public.

---

CPW welcomes communication in either English or Welsh.

For acknowledgement and further Contact:

Russell Goodway  
Chief Executive



05/04/2017

Community Pharmacy Wales  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Caspian Point 2  
Caspian Way  
CARDIFF, CF10 4DQ  
Tel: 029 2044 2070  
E-Mail [russell.goodway@cpwales.org.uk](mailto:russell.goodway@cpwales.org.uk)

