Template log for care homes and hospices

When a patient is prescribed a medicine, once the final supply of the medicine is completed and it is in the patient’s safe keeping, it is their legal property, but if the medicine is still in the safe custody of the care home or hospice care provider, whether the final supply to the patient has been completed is the subject of differing legal views.

However, with the COVID-19 pandemic there is a need to ensure as much flexibility as possible to ensure medicines are available to deliver care to patients that is safe and respectful.

DHSC has during the [COVID-19 pandemic](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus) developed a statement around the re-use of medicine specifically for COVID-19 (see Section 2).

Therefore, where possible, we encourage care homes and hospices to have timely conversations with all their patients with the full involvement of their families and/or carers, about their preferences and priorities on the re-use of prescribed medicines. This should include a discussion to explain:

* that the medicine, once it is in the patient’s safe keeping, is the property of the patient, and some would say that it becomes their property as early as when it leaves the pharmacy. An approach is being taken that is compatible with a range of opinions on this issue.
* that as a result of COVID-19 there may be interruptions to the medicine supply chain, which may mean surplus medicines need to be given to other patients, subject to the original patient’s permission
* if they wish, they need to agree this in writing and the date of agreement noted in the column in the table below
* if the supply of their medicine is interrupted, they may, subject to their written agreement, receive another patient’s surplus medicine.

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| Medicines for re-use | | | | | | Re-used medicines | | | | | |
| Date | Patient medicines originally prescribed to | Medicine details  Generic drug name, strength, formulation, expiry date | Quantity | Name, signature of registered healthcare professional | Details of patient consent to the re-use of their medicine | Date | Name of patient | Dose and Quantity | Reason for re-using | Name, signature of registered healthcare professional | Details of patient consent to receive re-used medicine |
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