

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board and North Wales Local Authorities Joint Agreement for a Code of Practice for the Management of Medicines in health and social care settings

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) undertakes to work with the social services directorates of Local Authorities within its boundary to set out this Code of Practice of the principles for the management of medicines in health and social care. It will provide the supportive framework for a document detailing standards of best practice and standard operating procedures for the handling and control of medicines of individuals receiving provision of care from health and social care providers.

Aim

The Code of Practice will apply to all BCUHB staff and all Local Authority Social Services staff and also to staff of commissioned services who provide services to others involving medicines. BCUHB and each of the Local Authorities within its boundary will specify that all providers of services involving medicines will be commissioned to provide standards of medicines management specified within the Code of Practice and the standards of best practice and standard operating procedures for the handling of medicines.

Principles of the Code of Practice

Principle 1: The general principles for handling of medicines will apply to the adult sector including registered adult social care settings and domiciliary care provision.

Principle 2: The foundation for safe management of medicines will be based upon an assessment by a competent person to determine a Patient Centred Care Plan for an individual that sets out the level of support needed.

Principle 3: An individual's right to consent for administration, and refusal to take medicines is of paramount importance as is their right to self administer. Where an individual's capacity for decision making is compromised covert administration of medication becomes an option only when a multidisciplinary team decision is taken in accordance with an approved procedure.

Principle 4: Care workers shall only work within their level of competence and when new skills are introduced as part of a planned extension of practice they will receive appropriate accredited training and assessment of competency before undertaking the new task in accordance with agreed local procedures.

Principle 5: The provider will have in place an agreed set of standard operating procedures based on the model "Standards of Best Practice and Standard Operating Procedures for medicines management for all care settings for adults issued jointly by BCUHB and Local Authorities.

This agreement will be reviewed at three yearly intervals or more frequently should there be changes in national guidance

Signatures on behalf of the organisations of agreement to the Code of Practice

	Name	Job Title	Organisation	Date
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