Dear Colleagues

Guidance for Repurposing Prescription Only Medicines in Care Homes and Hospices

Please find attached guidance that has been developed jointly by NHS Scotland and the Care Inspectorate and is aimed to support decision making regarding the repurposing of medicines through the provision of a risk assessment framework. This guidance is only applicable in Care Homes and Hospices across Scotland.

Repurposing of medicines is not a decision to be taken lightly. It should be seen as a last resort to provide a patient with access to palliative medication prescribed for them, that they require when other options to access stock cannot be made in a timely way to meet the patient needs. Such decisions should be taken within a governance framework that includes completion of a risk assessment, reflects the regulatory standards of any professionals involved and are recorded appropriately.

This guidance is approved for use in NHS Grampian during the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes local authority and private sector care homes. Private sector care homes should ensure this guidance is also approved for use via their normal governance structures.

A short video has been produced to demonstrate the operational use of the guidance. This can be accessed: [http://www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/our_work/coronavirus_covid-19/repurposing_medicines_guidance.aspx](http://www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/our_work/coronavirus_covid-19/repurposing_medicines_guidance.aspx)

This guidance supersedes Appendix 11 Repurposing of Controlled Drugs/Prescribed Medicines within Care Homes for Immediate Treatment during COVID-19 Pandemic that was included in the NHS Grampian Guidance for GP Practices and Care Homes Regarding the Supply and Administration of Palliative Care Medicines during COVID-19.

All prescribers, nursing staff, care home management and staff, COVID hubs and GMED should be aware of this guidance and the steps required to be followed should repurposing of medicines be being considered.

Many thanks

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