

APS 11

Ymchwiliad ar ddefnydd o feddyginiaeth wrthseicotig mewn cartrefi gofal

Inquiry on the use of anti-psychotic medication in care homes

Ymateb gan Gymdeithas Fferylliaeth Genedlaethol

Response from the National Pharmacy Association



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Consultation - Use of Anti-Psychotic medication in care homes.
Views on the terms of reference for the inquiry.

The National Pharmacy Association (NPA) is the trade body which represents the vast majority of community pharmacy owners in the UK, including across Wales. We count amongst our members nationwide pharmacy multiples, regional chains and independent pharmacies. In addition to being a representative voice, we provide members with a range of commercial and professional services to help them maintain and improve the health of the communities they serve.

The NPA welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation on the terms of reference for the inquiry into the Use of anti-psychotic medication in care homes.

The NPA is broadly supportive of the terms of reference suggested for this inquiry and will outline its rationale below:

The availability of data on the prescribing of anti-psychotics in care homes, to understand prevalence and patterns of use;

Recently, the University of Coventry conducted a study into antipsychotic prescribing in care homes before and after the launch of a national dementia strategy <http://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/6/9/e009882>

The study concluded that despite a number of strategies and recommendations to review the prescribing of these drugs, the “rates of antipsychotic prescriptions being given to people living in care homes has remained unchanged”. The availability and then the analysis of this data would help provide an indication as to the reasons behind the continuous prescribing of these drugs, which may lead to alternative solutions and options.

Prescribing practices, including implementation of clinical guidance and medication reviews;

Provision of alternative (non-pharmacological) treatment options;

Training for health and care staff to support the provision of person-centred care for care home residents living with dementia;

Dementia is a clinical condition that is growing in its prevalence, and research shows that early detection of this would aid in getting the right treatments as well

as receiving the best support. In addition, The Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales, highlights the following elements that are inspected in a care home:

- Focus on the well-being and experiences of the care home resident
- Scrutinise records and documents, including care plans and medication sheets

Hence, having a full understanding of the current reality in care homes in relation to the training of health and care staff to support in the provisions of person-centred care for care home residents, will lead to an increased awareness of this condition, which in turn would lead to a better quality of life for the individual. The NPA supports this element of the terms of reference.

Identifying best practice, and the effectiveness of initiatives introduced so far to reduce inappropriate prescribing of anti-psychotics;

A number of studies into the effectiveness of prescribing anti-psychotics, have been conducted over the past decades. Whilst all the studies have identified and highlighted best practices, there still appears to be some misalignment in its usage. This element of the terms of reference would address this.

Use of anti-psychotic medication for people with dementia in other types of care settings;

People affected by dementia are cared for in a number of settings including the person's own home. Having this reference point in the inquiry would allow for a thorough analysis of these settings, including any limitations that are presented, with a view for recommendations to be set up.

Other Comments:

Community Pharmacy is the front door to the NHS, and is increasingly, available over extended opening hours to provide advice on medications, the prevention of ill-health (including dementia), without the need for an appointment. It is through this role of being the most accessible clinicians on the high street that Community Pharmacies would be in a position of being able to provide a person centred care to individuals being prescribed anti-psychotics for dementia and other mental health illnesses. As part of the primary care multi-disciplinary team community pharmacies are also able to provide support to the prescribers and carers in all settings including the patients' own home. On this basis the National Pharmacy Association suggests that the role of community pharmacists, be taken into consideration in the inquiry into the use of anti-psychotic medication in care homes.

Kind Regards



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