

Homely Remedies Policy for Care Homes in North Yorkshire and York

Social Care providers have a duty of care to respond to users of the service who have symptoms of a minor nature e.g. toothache. This decision may be taken by the care worker for minor ailments without necessarily consulting the person's general medical practitioner.

- If a homely remedy is given it should be administered in accordance with the dosage instructions on the label or the patient information leaflet, and recorded on the person's medication administration record (MAR) chart.
- Care should be taken to ensure that any homely remedies given are not contra indicated and do not interact with the person's prescribed medication-staff are encouraged to liaise with the home's supplying pharmacist.
- Homely remedies must not be given for periods of longer than 48 hours without referral to the GP.
- Homely remedies should be stored securely in a locked medicines cupboard.
- Homely remedies for general use must be purchased for that purpose and must not be labelled for individuals.
- People who live in care homes may wish to use non-prescribed medicines on a longer term basis (including alternative or complimentary therapies e.g. herbal remedies) this should be discussed with the GP first before administering any doses, and the discussions recorded in the person's care plan and dated. Such treatment should be entered on the MAR Chart so that a complete list of all medicines used by the person is available.

The attached list has been agreed with Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in North Yorkshire and the North Yorkshire Branch of YOR Local Medical Committee Ltd for homes in North Yorkshire and York.

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References

Pharmacy tip: Non-prescribed medication (NYCC, City of York Council and NYHCSU)
The Handling of Medicines in Social Care (Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain 2007).

Homely Remedies

Medicines should be administered in accordance with the dosage instructions on the manufacturer's label and Patient Information Leaflet

Pain	Paracetamol
Indigestion	Gaviscon
Constipation (Homes providing nursing care may also give glycerine suppositories)	Senna
Diarrhoea	Rehydration Sachets
Cough Medicine	Sugar-free Simple Linctus

Medicines should be given for the immediate relief of symptoms only and for a maximum of 48 hours before referring to the service user's GP.

Newly found wounds	Non-adherent Dressing*
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*See additional protocol for use of dressings as first aid

The above list has been agreed with:

Harrogate and Rural District CCG
Vale of York CCG
Scarborough and Ryedale CCG
Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby CCG
North Yorkshire Branch of YOR Local Medical Committee Ltd

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