

Adult Social Care Provider Webinar

Friday 10th December 2021

Welcome and Introductions

Ian Crabtree

Welcome and introductions

Purpose of webinar: key messages and updates, both national and local

Reminders:

- Webinars are delivered every three weeks, Fridays, 1-2/2.30 p.m. Potentially schedule in weekly, dependent on developments and the need to quickly share key messages.
- Provider portal: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/practitioners/health-and-social-care/care-service-provider-engagement/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-care-providers/>

Today's Agenda

1-2.30pm

- National Update (Ian Crabtree)
- Medicine Optimisation Tool for Care Homes (Malcolm Irons)
- Vaccination Update (Nichola Morris)
- Testing Update (Nichola Morris)
- Finance Update (Ian Crabtree)
- IPC Update (Sarah Whelan)
- Care Capacity Tracker Update (Kieran Curran)
- PPE Update (Kieran Curran)
- AOB (Kieran Curran)

National Update

Ian Crabtree

National Update – Omicron Variant

- Early indications suggest that the Omicron variant may be more transmissible – the figures are currently doubling every two and half days.
- Omicron will become the dominant variant very soon, the majority of people infected by Omicron are under the age of 50.
- The vaccination programme and test, trace and isolate system continue to be the most effective way of reducing transmission, along with practicing good hygiene, keeping spaces well ventilated, and wearing masks.
- Guidance has been updated to reflect changes to self-isolation requirements for contacts of people who have been identified as a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of coronavirus (COVID-19).
- These contacts must stay at home and self-isolate even if they are fully vaccinated or aged under 18 years and 6 months. The public health advice for people with symptoms of, or a positive test result for COVID-19 remains the same for everyone.
- Full guidance is here: [NHS Test and Trace in the workplace - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-in-the-workplace)
(www.gov.uk)

National Update – Plan B

In response to the risks of the Omicron variant the government has announced that England will move to Plan B.

This means:

- From 10 December, face coverings will be required by law in most indoor settings.
- From 13 December office workers who can work from home should do so.
- From 15 December, certain venues and events will be required by law to check that all visitors aged 18 years or over are fully vaccinated, have proof of a negative test in the last 48 hours, or have an exemption.

Full guidance here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do>

Tests required for travel

- From 4am on Tuesday 7 December anyone aged 12 and over must show a negative PCR or lateral flow test result before travelling to England from abroad. You must take the test in the 2 days before you travel to England.
- You must also take a PCR test within 2 days of arriving in the UK and self-isolate until you get a negative test result, even if you're fully vaccinated. [Check what you need to do to travel to England from another country.](#)

National Update – Care Home Visiting

- There is currently no updated care home visiting guidance, we are supporting the existing guidance that remains in place.
- The current government guidance outlines care homes are expected to ensure visits can take place where possible.
- There should be no time limit on the visit and it should take place in a setting most practical and comfortable for the resident.
- Each resident should be able to choose an essential care giver.
- During a coronavirus outbreak:
 - indoor visiting should stop apart from in exceptional circumstances such as visits for a person at the end of their life.
 - Other ways of visiting should be supported. This might include visits in well-ventilated spaces with substantial screens, visiting pods or from behind windows.

Medicines Optimisation Tool for Care Homes

Malcolm Irons

CQC Pharmacist Specialist



University of
Central Lancashire
UCLan

Medicines Optimisation Tool for Care Homes (MOT-CH)

Malcolm Irons

Part-time PhD student

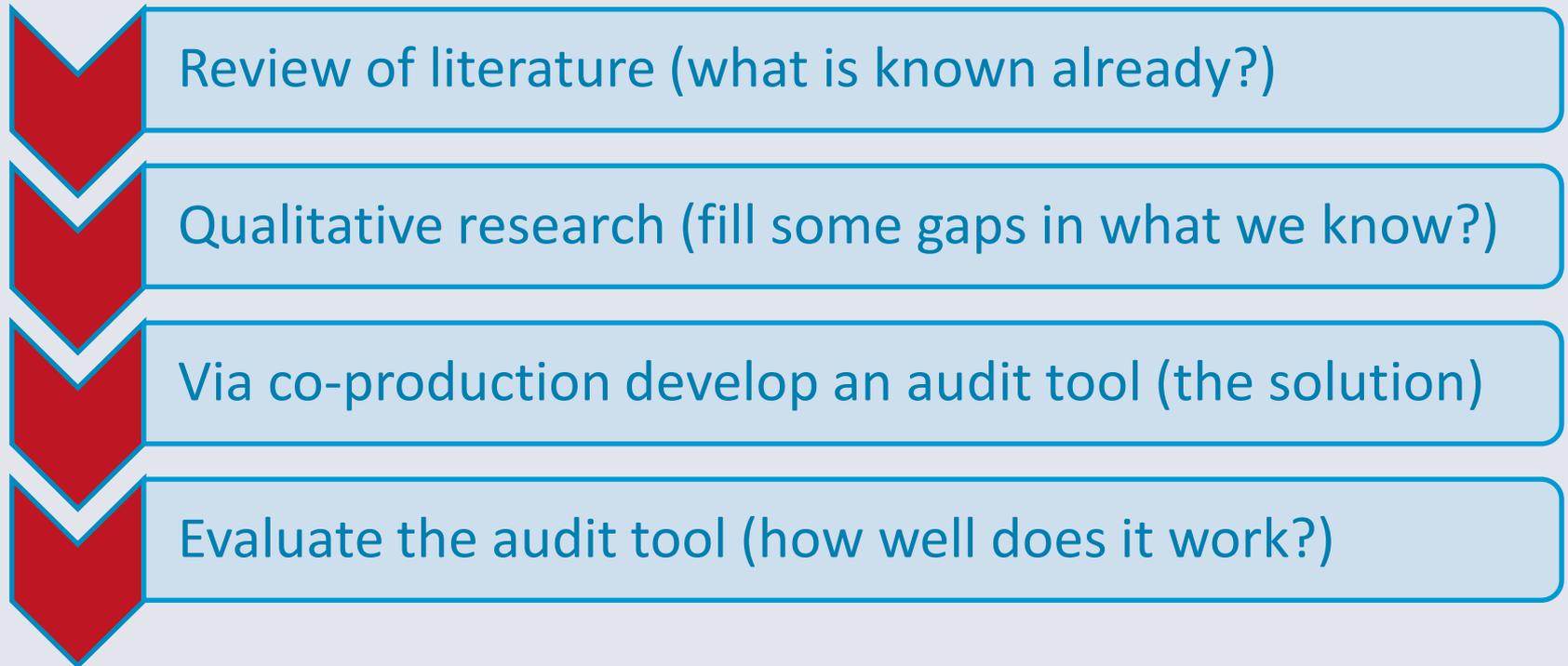
CQC Pharmacist Specialist

Where opportunity creates success

Why have we contacted you?

As potential participants we would like the opportunity to explain our research and encourage participation

Overall project plan





Qualitative research (fill gaps in what we know)

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- Registered manager interview (up to 6 per CCG)
 - Resident and or family focus groups (x2 per CCG)
 - Care home staff focus groups (x2 per CCG)
 - Visiting professionals focus groups (x2 per CCG)
 - Commissioners & regulator focus groups (x2 per CCG)
 - Request to submit current medicines audit tools.

What's in it for me, people I support & staff?

- Benefits:

- Improved identification of medicines related incidents and near misses
- Optimisation of patients' medicines in participating services
- Reduction in time committed to audit and monitoring
- A tool to allow the evaluation of different interventions
- Increase reputation as a learning organisation
- Not crossing the threshold

- Disadvantages:

- Resident and staff time to support the study (estimated at 1-2hrs per person)
- No funding for reimbursement of time
- Dependence on MS teams and associated technology.

Questions – Participation?

- Participation is voluntary and confidential
- Participants can withdraw at any time without giving reason
- Withdrawal and collected data (Before transcription of an interview, the data will be destroyed. After transcription your data will be retained)
- Withdrawal and collected data (Only before participation in focus groups).

Questions – Confidentiality & Dissemination?

- We will be maintaining participant confidentiality and anonymity according to GDPR
- We intend to:
 - Present the results to national and international conferences
 - Record video presentations
 - Publish in peer and non-peer review journals.

Questions – Study Closure?



- Qualitative research (fill some gaps in what we know?)



- Notification to participants and supporters that the data collection period has finished
- Feed back on the results and learning following analysis



- Evaluate the audit tool (how well does it work?)



- Closure of the study through a thorough and effective handover and return to business as usual
- Feed back on the results and learning following analysis.

Thank you for your time

Any questions?

Mr Malcolm Irons

Prof Andrea Manfrin

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Study Phases and Ethics Applications

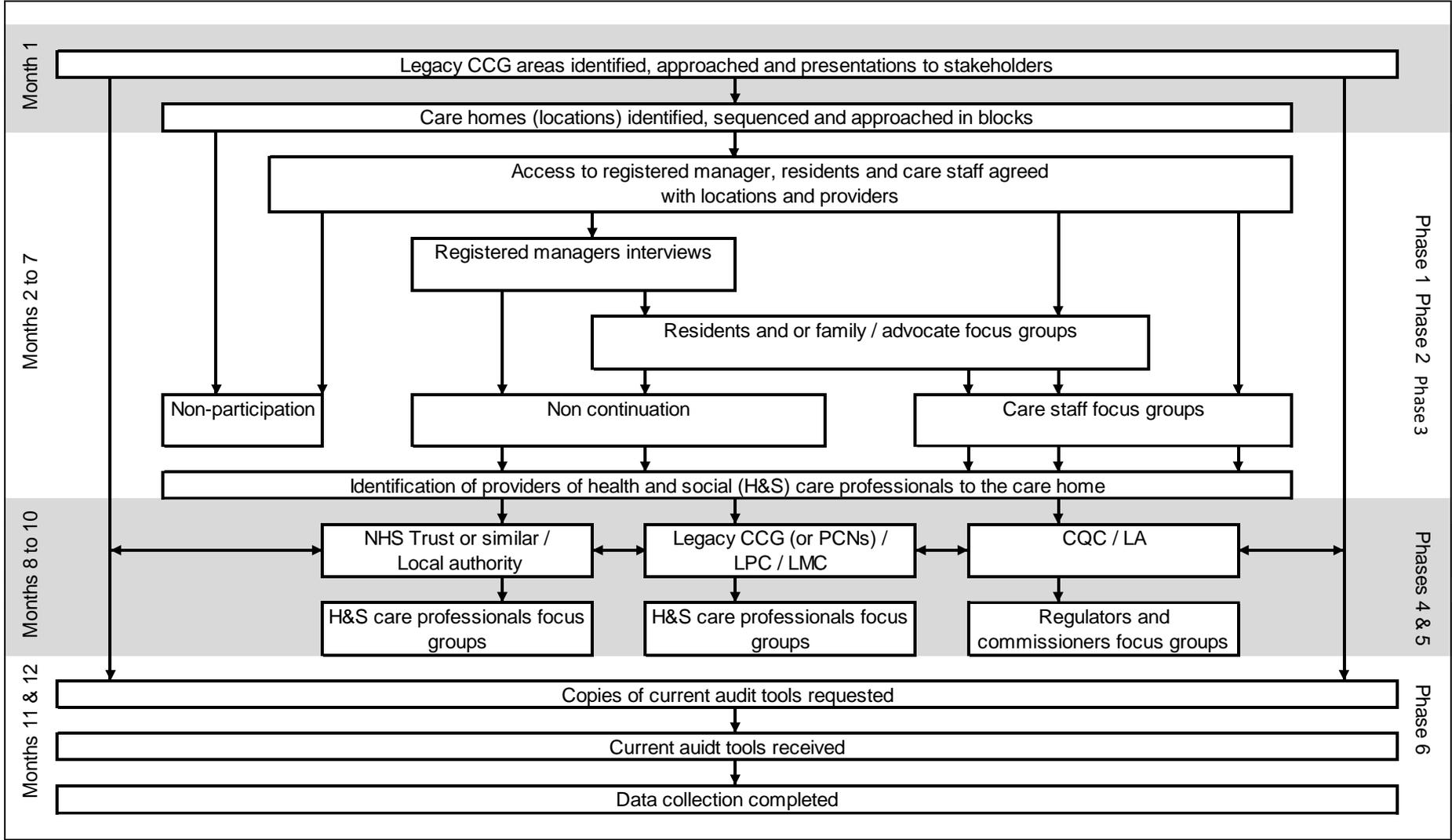




Review of literature (what is known already?)

A scoping review of UK publications (academic and grey) identified:

- 32 UK publications from 2006 to 2020
- Published average medicines incidents rates from 1.2% to 38% with three study around 8%
- Medicines incident rates increase with non tablet / capsule formulations (12% to 50%)
- Three papers evaluated active interventions (tidying records and medicines reviews post discharge to care homes)
- One multi site paper found no significant difference in medicines error rates between nursing and care staff in nursing homes.



Evidence Base

Medicine Safety in Care Homes National Report, The Academic Health Science Networks Network & NHSI, 2020

Medicines in Health and Adult Social Care, Care Quality Commission, 2019

Prevalence and Economic Burden of Medication Errors in the NHS in England, Policy Research Unit in Economic Evaluation of Health & Care Interventions (EEPRU), 2018

Vaccination Updates

Nichola Morris

Vaccination Updates

- Another big thank you for the fantastic effort for the vaccination rates across Lancashire, we are at the top of the table in NW for resident boosters at 81.5%
- 12-15 year olds will now be offered 2nd jabs
- The booster programme is extended to age 40+ and is continuing to work through the age groups
- The booster is expected to be offered to everybody aged over 18 by the end of January
- Please continue to encourage staff to get their booster jabs - two doses provides some immunity but not as much as having the third booster
- The minimum dose interval for booster jabs is being halved from six months to three months – the National Booking System will change from next week to reflect this

Booster Roll Out Bookings

- Boosters will be rolled out at 1,500 community pharmacy sites and extra hospital hubs
- You can use this link [here](#) to book your booster appointment or find a walk-in vaccination site
- You can also call 119 to book an appointment

Extension of Self- Certification

- The cut-off date for self-certification for everyone who has registered a self-certification has been extended.
- This means that self-certification forms will continue to be valid until 31 March 2022, so long as they have been received before 24 December 2021.
- Extending the cut-off for self-certification will allow sufficient time for individuals whose formal medical exemption is unsuccessful to be fully vaccinated before 31 March 2022.
- Individuals whose formal medical exemption application has been reviewed will now be sent their notification letters in the post on 7 December 2021. If notification letters are not received within 2 to 3 weeks for these individuals, they are encouraged to call 119.

Extension of Self- Certification

- Everyone who self-certifies as exempt from COVID-19 vaccination before 24 December 2021 will have until 31 March 2022 to secure formal proof of their medical exemption status.
- From 1 April 2022, they will either need to show proof of a formal medical exemption or be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in order to comply with the regulation and continue working in a CQC-regulated care home.
- Care home workers who wish to apply for a formal medical exemption should do so as soon as possible and inform their employer of the outcome of their application once they receive it.
- Full guidance: [Temporary medical exemptions for COVID-19 vaccination of people working or deployed in care homes](#)

Testing Updates

Nichola Morris

Self Isolation and Testing

- In most cases, you're [not required to self-isolate](#) if you live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:
 - you're fully vaccinated
 - you're below the age of 18 years and 6 months
 - you've taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
 - you're not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
- However, if you live in the same household as someone with a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant, or are a close contact of someone with a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant, you will be required to self-isolate regardless of your age or vaccination status. **NHS Test and Trace will contact you if this is the case.**
- [NHS Test and Trace will contact you](#) to let you know that you have been identified as a contact and check whether you are legally required to self-isolate. If you're not legally required to self-isolate, you will be provided with advice on testing and given guidance on preventing the spread of COVID-19. Even if you do not have symptoms, you will be advised to [get a PCR test](#) as soon as possible.

Self Isolation and Testing

- If you have previously received a positive COVID-19 PCR test result, you are not usually advised to be re-tested within 90 days of this result. However, you should have a PCR test within 90 days of a previous positive PCR test if:
 - you develop any new symptoms of COVID-19
 - you are a close contact of someone who has been identified as a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19
 - you are required to take a PCR test upon entry into the UK
- If you are tested within 90 days of a positive PCR test result for any of these 3 reasons, and the PCR test result is positive, you must self-isolate and follow the steps in this guidance again.
- You can find further [guidance for household contacts](#) and [guidance for non-household contacts](#) of people with confirmed COVID-19 infections.

Self Isolation and Testing

Daily contact testing

- The Government has announced its intention to replace self-isolation with daily testing for some contacts of people who have tested positive for COVID-19. Further details will be set out shortly. Until then, current rules continue to apply and you must self-isolate if instructed to do so by NHS Test and Trace. This remains the law.

Finance Update

Ian Crabtree

Covid Grants

- Allocations of the Covid IPC, Testing and Vaccination Grants
 - All now been disbursed to providers several weeks ago
 - So please check that you have received the money, and check details in the letter of what you need to do in response

Covid Grants

- Workforce Recruitment and Retention Grant
 - This is a discretionary grant of £3.7M in two tranches – the council has passported and paid out about 90% of the first tranche through to independent sector providers working in Lancashire as
 - Framework Homecare providers,
 - Crisis and Reablement providers
 - Residential and Nursing Homes
 - These allocations are based on our assessment of where the winter pressures are going to be most severe and where the Grant can make the greatest difference in improving recruitment and retention and therefore bolstering capacity
 - We recognise the disappointment that this will bring to other sectors and providers who have not been allocated any Workforce Grant, and wish we could have done more.. but on balance this feels like the right decision for the wider health and social care system and also for the people at greatest immediate risk if service capacity is not increased

Covid Grants

The remaining 10% of the Workforce Grant will be spent on

- increasing social work capacity,
- bespoke schemes which may require the development of some infrastructure and should benefit all sectors
- a small contingency reserve to support accelerated recruitment of staff for people with learning disabilities or autism due to move into new services as part of the Transforming Lives programme

Homecare Framework Providers

- Thank you for the work you have done in setting out details of your financial pressures and what it means for hourly rates
- Some of that information has been shared – at a high level and fully anonymised – with senior people in DHSC
- We are still finalising our responses and decisions on individual proposals and hope to confirm those next week

IPC Updates

Sarah Whelan

Influenza like illness (ILI)

- There is new guidance for your reference:
- The interim local Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) guidance for 2021 is now available. Please see our internet page for the updated version: [COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\) - Lancashire County Council](#)
- Infection prevention and control for seasonal respiratory infections in health and care settings (including SARS-CoV-2) for winter 2021 to 2022 guidance released 24/11/2021: [Infection prevention and control for seasonal respiratory infections in health and care settings \(including SARS-CoV-2\) for winter 2021 to 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Omicron

- A new variant has been detected
- We expect that new guidance will follow in light of the new variant.

Diarrhoea and Vomiting (D&V)

- There have been cases of D&V within some care homes recently
- Please ensure that UKHSA are notified and also notify ourselves
- Please ask visitors if they have had any symptoms of D&V within the last 48 hours as part of health screening questions

Christmas Decorations

- Communication on Christmas decorations has been sent to social care settings
- Please ensure that if the home is in outbreak that items can be cleaned down otherwise these items will need to be discarded

Care Capacity Tracker Update

Kieran Curran

NECS Capacity Tracker Update

- Please check your data on the NECS Capacity Tracker and update if needed so that it accurately reflects your setting's vaccination and booster position
- You will find the fields you need to update in NECS in the '*Costs, Vacancies and Business Continuity*' section. In this section, navigate to the '*Vaccination*' table and review the following:
- **Staff vaccination figures** in light of any updates to staff COVID pass status. This is important as the deadline for approved exemptions is 24th December
- **Workforce and staff vaccination figures** now that we are past the 11th November deadline for people working in care homes to be fully vaccinated. There should be no staff working in your care home if they are not fully vaccinated. If you still have staff employed and they are not vaccinated, please let us know the circumstances around this. We will be making some calls on this over the next few weeks.
- **Staff and resident booster status** This data is closely monitored by central government, CQC and us, and helps to identify areas that might need further support

PPE

Kieran Curran

Warehouse and Distribution over Christmas

- Last orders for confirmed delivery on 23 December need to be made by noon on **Tuesday 21 December**
- Warehouse closes for Christmas at noon 23 December and re-opens 29 December
- Warehouse closes again for New Year at noon 31 December and re-opens 4 January 2022
- In case of an emergency over the period we are closed call **07929789741** to request a delivery
- An emergency delivery will **only** be made if a care setting experiences an outbreak of Covid-19
- Not having ordered enough PPE or running low on stocks will not be considered an emergency and will be attended to when we re-open

AOB

Kieran Curran

Updated Guidance

Restricting workforce movement between care homes and other care settings – Revised

guidance describing circumstances in which staff movement may be “cautiously permitted” in order to address capacity concerns and ensure continuity of care. Updated 23 November.

Verify Plus

Verifyplus for residential and nursing homes

Verifyplus is an app to support residential and nursing homes meet their duties to record that anyone entering their premises is fully vaccinated (unless they are except). It allows vaccination status to be recorded and saved on a cloud-based system. Other councils are using it.

Please indicate in the Q and A box if you:

- **Would find this useful?**
- **If it would be time and resource saving?**

CQC Fee Changes

- The CQC fees scheme, which covers all regulation costs, including registration, monitoring and inspection **will not change next year (2022/23)**
- This means that, for many providers, your fees will have remained the same for the last three years, unless you have changed registration
- As in previous years, NHS trusts, NHS GPs and community social care providers may also see a change to their fees from April 2022 (up or down), as CQC update the factors (turnover, number of people using the service, etc.) used to calculate their fees
- Since there is no change to the fees scheme, CQC will not be consulting on fees this year
- You can find out more about the CQC fees scheme, how to pay fees, an update on non-payment of fees, and the fees calculator at www.cqc.org.uk/fees.

Christmas Holiday Arrangements

- The Contract Management and Infection, Prevention and Control teams will not be available between 24th December to 29th December and on the 3rd January
- During this period, any urgent requests for support should be made via the Emergency Duty Team on 0300 123 6722
- Reporting COVID-19 outbreaks during the holiday period should continue as usual to the UK Health Security Agency
- Information, advice and guidance regarding any Covid-19 incidents and outbreaks out of hours and on weekends can be obtained from the UK Health Security Agency. Their contact information: Email clhpt@phe.gov.uk Telephone 0344 225 0562 or out of hours ring 0151 434 4819

Assistive Lifting Service

- The county council and local Clinical Commissioning Groups have commissioned Progress Lifeline to provide a free, 24/7 'non-injury' falls lifting service to residents of care and nursing homes across Lancashire
- A Progress responder will usually attend within one hour, the average response time is just 25 minutes
- The team are trained in injury assessment and moving & handling of people, if they suspect an injury or feel it's unsafe to lift they will call NWS
- A mobile lifting chair called a 'Raizer' is used to help the resident off the floor
- The team continue to wear appropriate PPE

Assistive Lifting Service

Making a referral

In the event a resident has a fall and there is no obvious injury call the Progress Lifeline alarm response centre on:

01772 436 783

For further information please contact:

Steven McKiernan

Service Delivery Manager

m: 07765231213

e: smckiernan@progressgroup.org.uk



Provider Forum Dates

Lancashire Care Provider Forum

Thursday 13 January 2 - 4 p.m.

Next steps

- The next webinar will take place on 14th January at 1pm, we are now delivering the webinar every three weeks.
- We now have a permanent joining link for our webinars
- The recording from today will be shared on the portal – [link](#)
- Review and respond to any queries/questions, as appropriate

Thank you!