



National Clinical Homecare Association News Summer 2019

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Raising Awareness & e-Rx Digital Homecare

There are currently 355,000 patients receiving homecare services in UK representing £2.8bn NHS spending of which 90% is drug cost; homecare already accounts for up to 55% of the hospital drug budget (subject to regional variation). Pharma manufacturers fund 70% of homecare services as part of their supply chain.

Given the choice, many patients choose to be treated at home rather than in hospital and NHS Five-year-forward view and NHS Long Term Plan anticipates the further extension of clinical homecare services to treat patients in community settings. Clinical and medicines homecare services are an excellent example of inter-organisational provision of healthcare. NCHA is the trade body representing 95% of the clinical and medicines homecare industry. NCHA has a strong track record of stakeholder engagement resulting in agreed data sets and standards that are implemented by all homecare service providers and NHS Purchasing Authorities.

Development of homecare services are being hampered by the lack of awareness of these services outside those directly involved in the administration and delivery of the services. NCHA commends all those involved in provision of homecare services to raise awareness of these services.

NCHA recently took the opportunity to raise awareness of the interoperability challenge blocking the implementation of e-Prescribing in clinical and medicines homecare services at a meeting with Richard Sloggett, Special Advisor to the Health Secretary Matt Hancock. The briefing paper can be found on the NCHA website - <https://www.clinicalhomecare.org/resources/ncha-position-statements/>

Existing guidance and regulation were never intended to cover clinical and medicines homecare services and this provides an interoperability challenge which is blocking initiatives to implement e-prescribing in clinical and medicines homecare services. Resolving this interoperability challenge will support existing and future demand for specialist care in patient's homes and other community settings and deliver efficiencies.

Whilst there have been personnel changes since the appointment of the new Prime Minister, our submission is "in the system" and we await a response.

Update on engagement with Royal Pharmaceutical Society

NCHA have been working with NHMC, building on the publication of the RPS Homecare Standards arising from the Hackett Report into Homecare Services in 2011. RPS also hosts much of the guidance prepared by NHMC in the Homecare Handbook. We continue to raise the profile of homecare and encourage the RPS to recognise that Homecare is a professional sector in its own right, appointing a board level champion for homecare and to re-instate the RPS Homecare Expert/Steering Group which oversaw the publication of the Homecare Standards and Handbook.

The homecare community in UK is active and there are established mechanisms of collaborative working between National Clinical Homecare Association, Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry, NHS National Homecare Medicines Committee (including all the home nations) and NHS England Commercial Medicines Unit. This active community produces outputs that are improving patient safety, smoothly implementing change, and improving practices to drive efficiency and patient outcomes. We believe this active community is unique in number and quality of the output being produced which have been increasing year on year since formation of the National Homecare Medicines Committee in 1990 and the publication of the Hackett Report "Homecare Medicines -Towards a Vision for the Future" published Nov 2011. RPS continues to be the preferred place for NHMC to publish authoritative guidance for the delivery of homecare services.

The RPS is well placed to support homecare staff in interpretation of the grey areas in which homecare services often sit. This is increasingly important as NHS moves care closer to home within integrated services managed by multiple organisations within a locality, region or nationally. Much of the guidance published for homecare is transferable to the delivery of multi-organisation healthcare services to patients in community settings. We are committed to supporting the RPS in rolling out governance best practices including multi-organisation process co-ordination, standardisation of service specifications, key performance indicators and for community clinics and other forms of "closer to home" healthcare.

In homecare services, there are an increasing number of regulatory anomalies being encountered as these types of services were not foreseen when most of the regulations were published. RPS are already leading the way by publishing guidance enabling multi-organisational reporting of incidents, crossing organisational boundaries (link to Appendix 19). We are asking the RPS to help us engage with the DPSIMS project to ensure the principles embedded in the Guidance are incorporated into any revised national patient safety reporting and learning processes. We are also asking the RPS to support our work with MHRA to clarify pharmacovigilance reporting requirements as they apply to homecare services funded by pharmaceutical manufacturers and marketing authorisation holders.

Homecare Pharmacies are currently regulated as a "community" pharmacy and they are caught by the definitions of internet pharmacies although their operations are similar to hospital pharmacies with homecare pharmacy services are delivered remotely to the patient. NCHA and NHMC are seeking to work with RPS to clarify the status of homecare pharmacies and homecare prescriptions.

RPS is keen to support training for homecare staff. Whilst nearly all hospitals have homecare patients, homecare services are currently managed by homecare teams in 140 hospitals UK. Each hospital has or needs a trained Pharmacy Homecare Team, supported by a homecare specialist (trained to level 3 as specified in the homecare guidance). NHMC has published guidance on expected staffing levels for Pharmacy Homecare Teams and how they should be funded by NHS commissioners - <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/national-homecare-medicines-committee-nhmc-proposal-for-the-funding-of-pharmacy-homecare-teams/>

NCHA Conference

Plans are well advanced for the 2020 Homecare Conference on 6th February in Birmingham. This will be the third annual conference. Plans include a bigger and better poster session. The Conference programme and call for poster abstracts will be launched in September. Please contact info@clinicalhomecare.co.uk for more information.

Prescription Charges in Homecare Services

Following a number of queries from NHS Trusts to members about the collection of NHS prescription charges from homecare patients, NCHA has reviewed and re-issued its position statement originally approved in 2013. NCHA is not aware of any change in NHS official position on prescription charges since the original approval of this position statement in 2013.

The Status of NHS Prescription Charges in Clinical Homecare position statement can be found on the NCHA website - <https://www.clinicalhomecare.org/resources/ncha-position-statements/>.

Events & activities

NCHA All Member's Meeting 14th November 2019, London

These are invitation only meetings for NCHA members and invited guests including NHS Regional Homecare Specialists and CMU Homecare specialists.

Third Annual Clinical Homecare Conference and Symposium 2020 6th February 2020 in Birmingham

About NCHA

The National Clinical Homecare Association (NCHA) was established in 2006 to represent and promote the patient-led interests of specific organisations whose primary activity is to provide medical supplies, support and clinical services to patients in the community.

For further information visit www.clinicalhomecare.org