

Enclosure No:	2/AWMSG/1215
Agenda Item No:	Proposed Syringe Driver Chart
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1.0 Action for AWMSG

All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) members are asked to consider approval of an All Wales Syringe Driver Chart

2.0 Purpose

An All Wales syringe driver chart has been developed through the framework set out by the All Wales Quality and Safety sub group, the Drug Chart Reference Group

3.0 Summary

The Welsh Palliative Care Pharmacists Group (WPCPG) collated information on how syringe drivers were being prescribed across Wales. Practices varied greatly between hospitals, hospices, health boards and primary and secondary care. To reduce variability and to promote safer prescribing a single chart was developed for use in all settings.

4.0 Background

A survey was conducted by the members of the WPCPG to establish how syringe drivers were being written on medication administration charts throughout Wales in both primary and secondary care. It was discovered that practice varied widely from the use of specific syringe driver charts to the use of stickers and writing on varying sections of the All Wales Medicines Administration Record. To reduce the variation and promote safer prescribing we proposed a single chart for use in primary and secondary care, specialist units and as part of the new proposed end of life care priorities documentation.

The proposal was submitted to the chief pharmacists group and subsequently the development of the chart progressed through the All Wales Quality & Patient Safety Sub-group, Drug Chart Reference Group procedure.

A multi-disciplinary group, with representation from each health board was formed and met and agreed the proposal and through consultation with the group and with the All Wales Palliative Care Implementation Group (PCIG) and WPCPG the syringe driver chart was developed. The chart was trialled on general wards, specialist palliative care units and in the community setting and in the main the feedback was positive. Comments were all related to local practice where the issues could be overcome by local documents being adapted for use with the drug chart e.g. monitoring sheets or community nursing documentation.

The drug chart includes the facility to prescribe a dose range, particularly for use in rural areas and has a section to record exactly what dose was given if a range is used. The drug chart is designed to be used in conjunction with the All Wales drug chart and feedback obtained during the process of developing the syringe driver chart suggested that a community version of the All Wales Chart should be developed.

5.0 Consideration

The Welsh Palliative Care Pharmacists Group (WPCPG) collated information on how syringe drivers were being prescribed across Wales - both in primary and secondary care.

It was noticed that prescribing of syringe drivers varied greatly between hospitals, hospices, health boards and sectors. It ranged from specific syringe driver charts or hospice charts to the use of stickers/writing on the All Wales Medication chart. As a way of reducing this variability and to promote safe prescribing, we proposed a new single harmonised All Wales standard syringe driver chart across primary and secondary care.

WPCPG felt strongly that the chart should be applicable to both primary and secondary care to prevent any interface issues.

The proposal was submitted to the chief pharmacists group and subsequently the development of the chart progressed through the All Wales Quality & Patient Safety Sub-group, Drug Chart Reference Group procedure.

A task and finish group was formed with a representative from each health board and included, doctors, nurses, pharmacists and a Clinical engineer (pump trainer).

List of membership task & finish group:-

Name	Job title / role	Profession	Health Board
Lisa Thomas	Palliative Care Pharmacist	Pharmacist	ABMUHB
Ann Brennan	Palliative Care Nurse	Nurse	ABMUHB
Emyr Jones	Palliative Care Pharmacist	Pharmacist	ABUHB
Jane Brunsdon	District nurse team leader	Nurse	ABUHB
Elaine Sturman	Palliative Care Pharmacist	Pharmacist	BCUHB
Mel Lewis	Palliative Care Nurse	Nurse	C&VUHB
Teresa Neate	Senior nurse practice educator for district nursing	Nurse	C&VUHB
Stephen Keay	Clinical engineering (pump trainer)	Clinical engineer	C&VUHB
Dafydd Brooks	Palliative Care Registrar	Doctor	C&VUHB
Ian Back	Palliative Care Consultant	Doctor	CTUHB
Elizabeth Lewis	Palliative Care Pharmacist	Pharmacist	HDUHB
Eirian Lewis	GP	Doctor	HDUHB
Bridget Gwynne	Macmillan GP Facilitator	Doctor	HDUHB/Wales
Gill Griffiths	Palliative care nurse	Nurse	Powys Teaching HB

Three members of the Task and Finish Group, Elizabeth Lewis, Ian Back and Emyr Jones met initially on 26th August 2014 to discuss the possible format of the proposed syringe driver chart. Following discussions it was established there were three options available, a stand alone chart for prescribing and administering the drugs, a chart which included monitoring, a chart which also included the facility to prescribe other regular medication, once only, when required medication and infusions. Syringe driver charts currently available in Wales were collated in advance of the first formal Task and Finish Group and a meeting was arranged on 1st September 2014 for the whole group to meet to establish if there was a need for an All Wales syringe driver chart if the chart should be suitable for all sectors and what form the chart should take.

Agreement was reached that there should be an All Wales chart and that it should be suitable for use in both primary and secondary care. Discussions focused on whether or not to include monitoring in the chart and the need for the ability to have “when required” prescriptions prescribed in the community setting.

Following the meeting, over several months, sixteen versions of the chart were circulated to the group and also WPCPG and PCIG, via email, for comment. Amendments were made to accommodate the views expressed and over time it became clear that there was a great variation in practice throughout Wales. In three health boards the new McKinley syringe drivers had been configured in a different manner to the rest of Wales. This made the inclusion of monitoring on the chart impossible to include on the chart.

Because of these difficulties the final design of the chart allows the prescribing of a syringe driver and the recording of the administration of the syringe driver only. In this way the needs of each health board can be met with each health board providing their own monitoring documentation. Community nursing services may also need to review their documentation as practices vary in what is recorded with regard to stock, batch numbers etc.

For the chart to be suitable for all sectors there were problems in including “when required” medication on the chart because patients in hospital would already have a drug chart in use and this would cause governance issues if ‘prn’ medication was prescribed in two places. To overcome this it was proposed that the syringe driver chart should be used in conjunction with the standard All Wales drug chart, which would enable prescribing of all other types of medication (drug charts are being used more frequently in the community setting and WPCPG would recommend that it would be desirable to have a community All Wales drug chart available in the future).

Because of the difficulties faced when caring for patients in rural areas the need for the chart to allow a dose range to be prescribed was discussed. Although this is not considered best practice, the practicalities of treating patients in some areas of Wales make it essential that there is this facility on the chart and this was agreed. The chart has been designed to include the ability to record exactly what dose was given if a range has been prescribed and a box where the prescriber can add additional instructions.

The integrated care priorities for the last days of life (ICP) is currently being re-designed. Helen Mitchell, the consultant lead for the group developing the new ICP, has been consulted throughout the development of the chart. It has been agreed that the new syringe driver chart will form part of this documentation and that the syringe driver chart will be used in conjunction with the All Wales drug chart for patients on the ICP.

To help explain the use of the new syringe driver chart a power point presentation has been developed (Appendix 3) and a graphic instruction guide (Appendix 2) to assist in the implementation of the syringe driver chart.

The chart has been approved by the drug chart sub-group of the Quality and Safety Committee and has been successfully trialled in the community setting, in specialist units and general wards.

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Guidelines for completing the All Wales Subcutaneous Infusion Medication Administration Record

This chart is intended for prescribing continuous subcutaneous infusions (syringe driver) It is intended for use in both hospital and community settings. A standard All Wales drug chart should be used for all other accompanying medication.

Further information on continuous subcutaneous infusions, including drug compatibilities, diluents, infusion sites, dose conversions and drugs commonly used in syringe drivers is available at <http://book.pallcare.info>.



CONTINUOUS SUBCUTANEOUS INFUSION MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION RECORD

DRUG ALLERGIES & SENSITIVITIES	PLEASE CIRCLE AS APPROPRIATE:	HEALTH RECORD No: _____
	NONE KNOWN <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/>	SURNAME: _____
DRUG/ALLERGEN:	DESCRIPTION OF REACTION:	FIRST NAME: _____
DATE: _____		ADDRESS: _____
NAME: _____		DATE OF BIRTH: _____

CONTINUOUS SUBCUTANEOUS INFUSION MEDICATION

Prescribe the drug, or combination of drugs, in the appropriate box, along with the dose of each drug to be infused over a set period. When a new regime is prescribed cross through the previous prescription.

Completed prior to administration of any medicine for further guidance.

- This chart is intended for prescribing subcutaneous infusions of medication only
- For all other medication use standard All Wales Prescription Chart (as supplementary chart section and ~~use standard SD chart~~ driver for the first time, please re-subcutaneous infusion medication rec-

Although it is not considered best practice, in some circumstances, especially in rural areas, a dose range may need to be prescribed.

For community based patients (including community hospitals) review as often as possible

*Infusions to be administered once daily, unless otherwise stated

Specify the diluent to be used. This will usually be water for injection.

MEDICINE (Indicated therapy)	DOSE	PRESCRIPTION	DATE	TIME	START	STOP	TIME	TIME	TIME	TIME	TIME	TIME	TIME	TIME	TIME	TIME	TIME	TIME	TIME	TIME	


A 'special instruction box' is available for prescribers to state their directions e.g. 'please telephone before giving the higher dose'

This section should **only** be used if a dose range is prescribed. This allows the actual dose administered to be recorded.


MINISTRATION

The nursing staff must complete this section of the chart each infusion set up, documenting the date, start and stop times

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**All Wales Continuous
Subcutaneous Infusion
Medication Administration
Record
AWMR10**



Why do we need a standardised chart?

- The Welsh Palliative Care Pharmacists Group (WPCPG) collated information on how syringe drivers were being prescribed across Wales - both in primary and secondary care.
- It was noticed that prescribing of syringe drivers varied greatly between health boards, hospitals, hospices and in the community. It ranged from specific syringe driver charts or hospice charts to the use of stickers/writing on the All Wales Medication chart.
- As a way of reducing this variability and to promote safe prescribing, a single harmonised All Wales standard syringe driver chart across primary and secondary care was proposed.
