

COVERT ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION

2020-21



Vista Care Solutions Ltd trading as Sunlight Care Newham. Registered in England. Company No: 11353031.
Registered Office: 3-9 Balaam Street, London, E13 8EB

DOCUMENT CONTROL

DOCUMENT TITLE: COVERT ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION 2020-21
DOCUMENT NUMBER: SCGCAM_V1.0
AUTHOR: SHAK HABIB
CHANGE AUTHORITY: THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr Shak Habib

Signature: _____



Date: 29/01/2020

Designation: Director of Quality & Compliance

Review Date: 29/01/2021

CHANGE MECHANISM

Any person seeking to alter this document must consult the author before making any change.

SCG Change Authority must endorse any alterations to the approved version of this document before any wider dissemination of the altered document version.

The person making the alteration must indicate every change between the previous (approved) document version and the altered document version.

COPYRIGHT

The copyright in this work is vested in SCG, and the document is issued in confidence for the purpose for which it is supplied. It must not be reproduced in whole or in part or used for tendering or manufacturing purposes except under agreement or with the consent in writing of SCG and then only on condition that this notice is included in any such reproduction. No information as to the contents or subject matter of this document or any part thereof arising directly or indirectly there from shall be given orally or in writing or communicated in any manner whatsoever to any third party being an individual firm or company or any employee thereof without the prior consent in writing of SCG. Copyright© SCG, 2020. All Right Reserved

Vista Care Solutions Ltd trading as Sunlight Care Newham. Registered in England. Company No: 11353031.
Registered Office: 3-9 Balaam Street, London, E13 8EB

COVERT ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION POLICY

Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance for staff regarding the covert administration of medicines to adults and older people. The Nursing and Midwifery Council recognises there may be exceptional circumstances for which the covert administration of medicines may be considered to prevent a resident from not being given essential treatment.

The practice of offering medication in food or drink is only allowable in particular circumstances and it is recognised this could be open to abuse. The Care Home recognises the importance of providing guidance as to when this practice is lawful, and to ensure that if it is used for a resident, it has been properly considered, thorough consultations have been made and that the practice is transparent and open to public scrutiny and audit.

If a resident has the capacity to refuse any form of medical treatment that view must be respected. In that scenario the covert administration of medicines will not be allowed.

It is recognised there is a difference between a resident who has the capacity to refuse medication and a resident who finds it difficult to take some forms of medication, due for example to swallowing difficulties, and therefore require to take medication with food or drink.

Residents with Capacity

Any resident who has the mental capacity to make choices about his or her treatment must be given the opportunity to do so and his or her wishes should be respected.

Residents with cognitive impairment may nevertheless retain the capacity to make particular health care decisions. The assessment of capacity must always be specific to the decision that needs to be taken.

Mental capacity should be assessed first to establish that there is an impairment or disturbance of the mind, and then to establish whether that disturbance renders the person unable to make the decision in question.

Residents Lacking Capacity

If a resident is judged to lack the mental capacity to make a decision, then a decision requires to be made as to what is in the resident's best interests. That decision will be taken in consultation with the medical and other health professionals treating the resident.

An assessment will be made by the resident's GP or geriatrician as to whether the prescribed treatment is essential and should be continued.

A judgment needs to be made about the importance of the treatment to the resident's quality of life and general wellbeing and health. It is important to identify the least restrictive option that will meet the resident's needs.

Consideration should be given to the resident's views on whether the medicines should be administered and if not why not, both then and at the time the resident last had sufficient capacity to understand what medication the resident was prescribed. These views should be recorded. A view should also be taken from the resident's relatives or next of kin or attorney, and if there are none then the views of an advocate should be sought, and again in each case these views should be recorded.

If it is decided that it is necessary to provide the treatment in the best interests of the resident, and that in order to do so it may be necessary to administer medication by covert means, then the advice of a pharmacist should be sought to establish whether it is practical to do so, and if so advice should be sought about method of administration. The advice given should be recorded.

Care Plan

A covert medicines care plan should be completed. All decisions taken should be recorded together with details of all consultations that take place. The period over which medication may be administered covertly should be agreed and then reviewed. This should not become routine practice.

Procedure for Administration

The medication if taken with food or drink should be given with small portions of food or drink. The resident should be encouraged to eat normally. The person administering the medicine covertly should be present to supervise the administration of the medication until all the medication has been administered. The resident should be encouraged regularly to take medication in a normal manner.

The Care Home recognises the importance of acting in the resident's best interests and that the covert administration of medication must be necessary in order to save life, prevent deterioration in health, or ensure an improvement in the resident's physical or mental health.