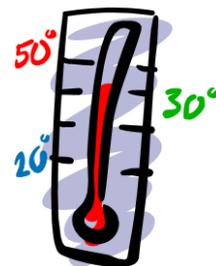


# Medicines Awareness

## for care homes

### Medication Requiring Refrigeration

Some medicines must be stored in a refrigerator because at room temperature they break down or 'go off'. Care homes need to know which medicines need to be kept cool. Check the packaging, or refer to the Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) supplied with a medicine—this will state whether the medicine needs to be kept in a fridge. If you should need a copy of a PIL, contact your pharmacist.



A dedicated medicines refrigerator should be put in place and should be fitted with a digital thermometer to record the current, maximum and minimum temperatures. A record should be kept of the daily readings and should include the signature of the care worker taking the readings. (See attached sample record sheet). Any unusual results should be reported to the manager or a senior member of staff. It is important to ensure that all staff taking the thermometer readings understand how to read and reset the thermometer and why this is necessary.

No food should be stored in the medicines fridge to minimize the risk of contamination and the fridge should not be overfilled as this increases the chance of changes in temperature.

The refrigerator should be fitted with a lock and should be regularly cleaned and defrosted and a record should be kept detailing the date it was cleaned and defrosted and the name of the person responsible.

If the refrigerator breaks down or the temperature exceeds 8° advice must be sought from a pharmacist or the medicines manufacturer to establish whether the medication will still be suitable for use or if it needs to be discarded and a new supply obtained. Similarly if a minus reading is recorded this means that the fridge has gone below freezing point and the medicine must be checked to ensure that it hasn't frozen. Again a pharmacist or the manufacturer must be contacted to ensure the medication is still fit for use.

Attached is a sample temperature record sheet.

For further advice please contact the medicines management team at Walsall CCG

Tel. 01922 618388

