Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_526_23

You asked:

I have a freedom of information request regarding the use of multi-medicine pill pouches to increase medication compliance, save on medication waste and increase adherence rates for especially the polymedicated elderly.

Could you please answer the following questions:

1.   Within your Health Board

a) Where are you using multi medicine pill pouches? E.g., acute hospitals, mental health hospitals, nursing homes, residential care homes, patient's homes.

   Kindly provide a name and department of this place.

   There are different types of medicine compliance aids (multi medicine pill pouches). These compliance aids are used in community setting i.e. care homes, respite placements and patients' own home. These are however, not used in acute hospitals.

b) Which type of organization is requesting them? E.g., Hospitals, nursing homes, community care providers.

   Patients or their carers (family carers or care home setting) request these compliance aids.

c) Who provides these pouches? E.g., Hospitals, community pharmacies (Please state name & address).

   Primarily, community pharmacies provide these compliance aids. On occasions, pharmacy department in hospitals can also supply to assist with timely discharge. Further supplies are made by patient's chosen pharmacy.

2.   Does your Health Board conduct continued care at home visits solely for the purpose of conducting medication adherence prompts?

If so,

a) What type of patient are you providing this service for? E.g., Fragility, mental health, Parkinson's disease, epilepsy.

   The Health Board utilises a number of specialist teams to conduct at-home visits to patients with medication adherence issues. The majority of patients are frail elderly, but the teams are not limited by patient age or medical condition. The teams provide short term assessment and reablement services only, and do not provide regular medication prompts.

b) How many patients require these medication prompt visits per month?

   Not applicable - the specialist teams referenced in 2a do not provide regular medication adherence prompts.

c) How long does it take for the staff member/ carer to conduct a patient medication prompt visit?

Not applicable - the specialist teams referenced in 2a do not provide regular medication adherence prompts.

3.   In your Health Board, are you using medical devices or technology to improve medication adherence at home?

If so,

a) What type of device/ technology are you using?

The specialist teams referenced in 2a will utilise a variety of devices and technologies to support medication adherence in patients assessed as having ongoing issues. Options include multi-compartment compliance aids (patients own and filled by family, or filed and supplied by community pharmacy),Pivotell (and comparable devices from other manufacturers), YourMEDS, patient's own smartphone / smart speaker, Memrabel.

b) Is this device/ technology used in conjunction with patient medication prompt visits? Or has this reduced the number of medication prompt visits required?

The devices and technologies referenced in 3a may be used alone, in combination with each other, or in conjunction with medication prompts provided by family members or care workers. Where utilised successfully, the devices and technologies referenced in 3a can reduce the requirements for more intensive interventions, including patient medication prompts.

c) Are you planning on increasing investment or the number medication adherence solutions available to your local population to improve medicines adherence at home? (Especially for the most vulnerable patients.) If so, how?

Given the current pressures upon Health and Social Care systems, the Health Board is exploring options to increase the utilisation of devices and technologies to support medication adherence. Options being considered include an increased use automated medication devices (e.g. Pivotell, YourMEDS) and increased use of telecare, either to provide remote medication prompts, or to integrate with automated medication devices.