

Administration of medicines in care homes and community settings



Purpose of this procedure:

Medicines administered in care homes and community settings are routinely supplied from a community pharmacy labelled for an individual patient. There may be occasions when medicines, including controlled drugs, are required urgently and cannot be supplied in a timely manner using the usual supply route. Independent Nurse Prescribers and nurses, who are administering against an approved Patient Group Direction (PGD), may carry a supply of Controlled Drugs for administration to a patient. Bags containing appropriate medicines (grab bags) may be made available for use in these situations.

The Procedure:

- 1.0 If any service wishes to adopt the use of grab bags, they must first have a procedure approved by the NHS Lothian Controlled Drug Accountable Officer.
- 2.0 If approved, the stock to supply the grab bags will be provided from an NHS Lothian site or Lothian Unscheduled Care Service.
- 3.0 The grab bag will be allocated to a member of staff who will be responsible for the bag during the duration of their shift.

Associated materials/references:

[Safe Use of Medicines Policy](#)