

Appendix 3: CQC Notifiable Incidents – Medication Errors

From: John Adams [mailto:vodgensec@btinternet.com]
Sent: 20 January 2012 13:53
To: VODG Members
Subject: CQC Notifiable Incidents - medication errors

Dear All - the Care Providers Alliance, which VODG is a member of, has sought to clarify CQC's expectations and requirements in terms of notifying medication errors. Their response is copied below for information and interest.

From: Spoerer, Simon [mailto:Simon.Spoerer@cqc.org.uk]
Sent: 20 January 2012 09:28
To: Leonie Purvis
Cc: Eismann, Sandra; Ask Regulatory Development
Subject: RE: Notifiable Incidents - medication errors

There is no specific requirement to notify medication errors. They can, however, be reported in four other notification types as a cause or relevant factor:

Death: where the error caused death, the death notification should include information about the error. There is a section of the death notification form provided by CQC that has a number of medicines-related questions that can be used for this, together with the 'any other relevant information' section.

Injury: where the error caused injury (as defined by the relevant regulation and explained in the Guidance about Compliance) an injury notification should be submitted. There is a space for medication error to be ticked as a cause of the injury being notified, and relevant information should be recorded in the 'any other relevant information' section.

Abuse: where an error was deliberate and abusive but did not lead to death or injury, an abuse notification should be submitted and the error described in the 'any other information' section.

Incidents reported to or investigated by the police: where an error is reported to or investigated by the police, the relevant notification form should be submitted and the error described in the 'any other information' section.

We are aware that the lack of a specific medication error notification requirement continues to cause 'noise' in the system, and will be discussing whether there is a need for a specific type with stakeholders (including yourselves) during 2012.

I hope this helps.

Simon Spoerer, Senior Designer

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Statutory requests for information made under access to information legislation such as the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000 should be sent to: information.access@cqc.org.uk

HOWEVER, if you have contacted your Safeguarding Adults Team about a medication error that isn't covered in the above email you **MUST** make an 'Abuse or allegations of abuse' Notification. This is because CQC will cross reference Notifications with information they received from other agencies. You will usually note this as 'Neglect' on the Notification.