

Medication management - St Joseph's Village, NSW

St Joseph's Village in Auburn NSW, has received a Better Practice in Aged Care Award for its medication management program.

The program ensures that the resident, staff, general practitioners, specialists, other health care service providers and pharmacists are all kept informed of the changing medication needs of residents.

An up-to-date accurate record of the medication history of each resident is maintained on the hostel medication chart, and by the general practitioner, with the record also forwarded with residents to visits with doctors and specialist clinics. A 'resident's ongoing diagnostic history' sheet has been developed to provide more detailed documentation of residents' medical history for consideration by other health care service providers and for transfer of residents.

Medication charts are reviewed every three months and rewritten every six months by the medical practitioner. They are also audited regularly for legibility, compliance with regulatory requirements, and their documentation of telephone orders, allergies and alterations to dosage.

An independent medication review is carried out by an accredited clinical pharmacist, who is also available to provide drug information and to educate residents in drug usage and side effects.



The registered nurse monitors resident response to medications and other clinical issues on a daily basis. Consumer Medicine Information Requests are forwarded to the supply pharmacist for action.

All care staff who administer medications have undertaken CSE Certificate III (aged care), with ongoing education and training supplied by the care manager and pharmacists. Medication administration competencies have

been developed and are assessed three times prior to commencing medication administration, then once a year.

The results of medication incidents/errors are reported to and evaluated by the medication management committee and quality management committee.

The medication incident data for St Joseph's Village is benchmarked against 83 other low care facilities via quality performance systems.