

New model for Delegation of healthcare tasks: update

Over August, September and October 2014, a number of provider forums took place around the county to discuss a proposed new model for delegation of healthcare tasks. We wanted to hear from care providers on the benefits of this new model from their perspective, their concerns and suggestions for further improvement.

Summary of the proposed changes:

1. Risk assessment approach to delegation of healthcare tasks, with a clinical decision required to determine training requirements for individual clients (Appendix 1).
2. Administration of medication outside an MDS (including liquid medication, prescribed ointments, creams, lotions, short-course antibiotics) potentially not requiring training once a clear prescription is provided.
3. A robust training model with
 - Standardised training protocols to facilitate portable competency awards for routinely delegated healthcare tasks i.e. Warfarin, TEDs.
 - Portable skills training delivered through a mixture of 1:1 training, classroom-based open training, provider-targeted training.
 - Client-specific training for less commonly delegated (complex) healthcare tasks i.e. PEG feeding, medications via PEG, trache care, bowel care.
4. A register of care workers who have received portable competency awards held by Oxford Health NHS FT, to include competency expiry dates.
5. Additional resource (4 dedicated nurse trainers) to support the existing shared care nurse trainer, offering countywide equitable provision to support training, delegation, review of clients with delegated healthcare tasks and support for care workers.
6. Introduction of delegation guidelines for healthcare tasks as the 'instruction to delegate'; provided by an NHS clinician to trained care teams.
7. Re-branding the Shared Care Protocols as **Delegation of Healthcare Tasks**, to ensure proper ownership and accountability for delegation.
8. Decision-making framework to support delegation of tasks in exceptional circumstances i.e. insulin.

We are awaiting a decision from Oxfordshire CCG on funding for the additional 4 registered nurses and will inform you as soon as we have more information on this and a potential 'go live' date.

Thank you to everyone who attended one of the 7 meetings held in Banbury, Witney, Oxford City, and Abingdon.

Appendix 2 offers a summary of the feedback collected. This new model for delegation has been positively received overall. Understandably people have some concerns which will be taken into account and managed as we transition to the new way of working.

To coincide with implementation of the new model we will be planning widespread communications on the changes, new written guidance to replace the existing Shared Care Protocol and a launch event at a central location.

In the meantime, if you would like to comment further on the proposed changes, please contact me directly on 07827 084 164 or anita.kromer@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk

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