

# Medication Error Policy

This policy describes how medication errors are managed. Medication error can include administration, prescribing, monitoring and dispensing.

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Type of Policy	Clinical √		Non Clinical
Which Relevant CQC Fundamental Standards?		Medicines N	lanagement

#### Contents

Equality statementpage 4
Definitions and abbreviations that apply to this Policypage 5
1.0 Summary of policypage 6
2.0 Introductionpage 6
3.0 Purposepage 6
4.0 Duties within the organisationpage 6
5.0 Medication Error
5.1 What Constitutes a Medication Errorpage 7
5.2 Immediate Actions When Medication Administration Error/Near Miss Identifiedpage 9
5.3 Management of Administration Error (using BESS tool)page 10
5.4 Management of Prescribing Errorpage 11
5.5 Management of Dispensing Errorpage 12
5.6 Management of Member of Staff Making Medication Errorpage 13
5.7 Reflection for Member of Staff Making Medication Errorpage 13
5.8 Informing Patient/Parentpage 14
5.9 Medium to Long Term Actions following Medication Errorpage 14
6.0 Management and Implementationpage 14
7.0 Training Needspage 14
8.0 Monitoring compliance and effectivenesspage 14
References and associated documentationpage 15
APPENDIX 1 Stakeholders and Consultationpage 16
APPENDIX 2 Bennion Error Scoring System (BESS) Paperworkpage 17

Practice	page 29
APPENDIX 4a Prescribing Error Monitoring Form	page 30
APPENDIX 4b Grading Prescribing Errors	page 31
APPENDIX 5 Dispensing Incident Form	page 33
APPENDIX 6 High Risk Medicines With Respect to Omissions	page 35
APPENDIX 7 Losses or Discrepancies - Community	page 36
APPENDIX 8 NHS Constitution	page 37
APPENDIX 9 Due Regard Template	page 38
APPENDIX 10 PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	page 39

# **Version Control and Summary of Changes**

Version number	Date	Comments
Version 2, Draft1	February 2012	(description change and amendments)  City and County CHS Policy harmonised. Incorporated BESS (used by LPT) and Leicestershire
Version 2, Draft 2	April 2012	Medicine code chapter 17.  Amendments made following consultation across Divisions. Changes include alterations to the flowcharts to make management of prescribing errors and dispensing errors more robust.  Acknowledgement that more work is needed to make the management of prescribing errors more robust.
Version2, Draft 3	April 2012	Following amendments made by the Policy Group;  1. Policy adopted by Quality Assurance Committee  2. Change wording for "Duties within the organisation"  3. Slight change in wording in 5.2  4. Wording in 7 amended to include an audit to monitor compliance and effectiveness
Version 3, Final	February 2013	Updated NHSLA Self Assessment Form
Version 3, draft 1	October 2013	Introduction of an objective scoring system for grading and managing prescribing errors, primarily in the in-patient setting.  Addition of appendix 7 – Losses or Discrepancies in

		Community
Version 3, draft 2	August 2015	Section 5.4 updated to take into account thresholds for prescribing errors, notification to line managers/deanery and authority for LPT pharmacist to terminate prescription. Layout of BESS paperwork changed, addition of categories and some scores changed following consultation with various staff. Layout of Policy amended in line with new Policy structure.
Version 4	March 2017	In Roles and Responsibilities, strengthened role of Medicines Risk Reduction Group for management of prescribing errors. Slight change to section 5.4 and appendix 4a to reflect that the prescriber can query or disagree with an error logged against them.
Version 5	August 2018	Updated BESS tool following task and finish group. Education and training section strengthened and scoring for prescribing error brought in line with administration error
Version 6	August 2021	Minor changes to BESS form to bring it in line with Ulysses changes
Version 6.1	March 2025	MMRG Agreed 6 month extension

#### **Equality Statement**

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) aims to design and implement policy documents that meet the diverse needs of our service, population and workforce, ensuring that none are placed at a disadvantage over others.

It takes into account the provisions of the Equality Act 2010 and promotes equal opportunities for all.

This document has been assessed to ensure that no one receives less favourable treatment on the protected characteristics of their age, disability, sex (gender), gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity.

In carrying out its functions, LPT must have due regard to the different needs of different protected equality groups in their area. This applies to all the activities for which LPT is responsible, including policy development and review.

All LPT Policies can be provided in large print or Braille formats, if requested, and an interpreting service is available to individuals of different nationalities who require them.

Did you print this document yourself?

Please be advised that the Trust discourages the retention of hard copies of policies and can only guarantee that the policy on the Trust website is the most up-to-date version.

#### For further information contact:

Head of Pharmacy - 0116 225 3709

Lead Pharmacist for CHS Directorate - 0116 295 6651

Lead Pharmacist for FYPC Directorate - 0116 295 8308

#### Definitions and abbreviation that apply to this Policy

_	
CASE	Clinical Audit Standards and Effectiveness
BESS	Bennion Error Scoring System
TWMRRG	Trust Wide Medicines Risk Reduction Group
Medication Error	'A medication error is any preventable event that may cause or lead to inappropriate medication use or patient harm while the medication is in the control of the health care professional, patient or consumer. Such events may be related to professional practice, health care products, procedures, and systems including; prescribing; ordering, communication; product labelling, packaging and nomenclature; compounding; dispensing; distribution; administration; education; monitoring; and use'. (The National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting and Prevention)
Due Regard	<ul> <li>Having due regard for advancing equality involves:</li> <li>Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics.</li> <li>Taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people.</li> <li>Encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.</li> </ul>

#### 1.0 Summary of Policy

Whilst every care is taken by individuals and the organisation when managing medication, errors involving medicines are inevitable.

This policy describes how medication errors are managed. The policy describes immediate action to ensure patient safety, grading of errors (where appropriate) and longer term actions to ensure that individuals, team, directorate and organisation can learn from errors.

#### 2.0 Introduction

Medication is the most common medical intervention. LPT deals with medicines on a day-to-day basis. LPT has robust polices, training program and audit to ensure that medicines are managed safely. Due to the high volume of activity involving medicines, complexity of the procedures and the human component, medication errors are inevitable.

A medication error can pose a threat to the patient as well as the organisation. The member of staff who made the error can also be affected.

Broadly speaking, medication errors encompass prescribing error, preparation error, dispensing error, administration error and monitoring error.

The procedures in this policy describe how to manage medication errors including immediate actions to consider as well as medium and long term actions.

#### 3.0 Purpose

The principle objectives of this policy are to:

- 1. Ensure the immediate and long term safety of the patient;
- 2. Support the member of staff who made the error in an individualised manner so that risk of such errors are minimised as far as possible;
- 3. Identify any factors that may have contributed to the error (e.g. team, staffing, level of noise etc...)
- 4. Support managers when dealing with staff who have made an error;
- 5. Provide a framework for grading errors so that staff are dealt with fairly and consistently;
- 6. Ensure that the organisation can learn lessons from the error in order to minimise such occurrence in the future.

#### 4.0 Duties within the Organisation

- 4.1 The Trust Board has a legal responsibility for Trust policies and for ensuring that they are carried out effectively.
- 4.2 The TWMRRG monitors <u>all</u> medicine related incidents across the LPT; detect trends and clusters of activity. The Group ensures that lessons are learnt from such incidents and that this information is then disseminated to all those who may benefit

- from it. TWMRRG analyse prescribing errors amongst inpatient clinicians and determines what actions are taken based on pre-agreed thresholds. The TWMRRG will escalate any issues it considers appropriate to the Trust Patient Safety Group.
- 4.3 Directors and Heads of Service are responsible for ensuring that there are appropriate resources provided within their service area to implement and adhere to the policy.
- 4.4 The Directorate Patient Safety sub groups or equivalent group will monitor adverse incidents across all service areas including aggregate analysis and identify any trends and themes. This includes advising the directorate management team on significant areas of risk through their local governance reporting mechanisms.
- 4.5 Managers and Team leaders will be responsible for:
  - Ensuring this policy is implemented in their area of responsibility.
  - Manage medication errors in line with this policy
  - Ensuring that their staff are appropriately trained in line with the requirements of this policy;
- 4.6 Responsibility of Staff:

It is the responsibility of staff who manage medicines to ensure that they are familiar with this policy, particularly the immediate actions to take when a medication error is identified.

4.7 Managing medication errors will be part of the medicines management training. Relevant staff will be expected to undertake medicines management training at least every three years as part of the mandatory training. Refer to the training needs analysis for full details

#### 5.0 Medication Error

#### 5.1 What Constitutes a Medication Error (not an exhaustive list)

#### **Prescribing Errors**

- Incorrect or incomplete patient or medicine details on the prescription including incomplete "prn" details
- Inappropriate medicine / dose / route / rate
- Inappropriate indication
- Prescribing without taking into account the patients clinical condition, including past medical history, past drug history
- Incorrect length of course for the patient
- Medication prescribed to the wrong patient
- Transcription errors
- Inappropriate monitoring/follow up
- Medicine prescribed that the patient is allergic to
- Prescription not signed

#### **Dispensing Errors**

- Patient dispensed the wrong medication / dose / formulation /strength / quantity
- Medication dispensed to the wrong patient
- Patient dispensed an out of date medicine
- Medication is labeled incorrectly or not at all

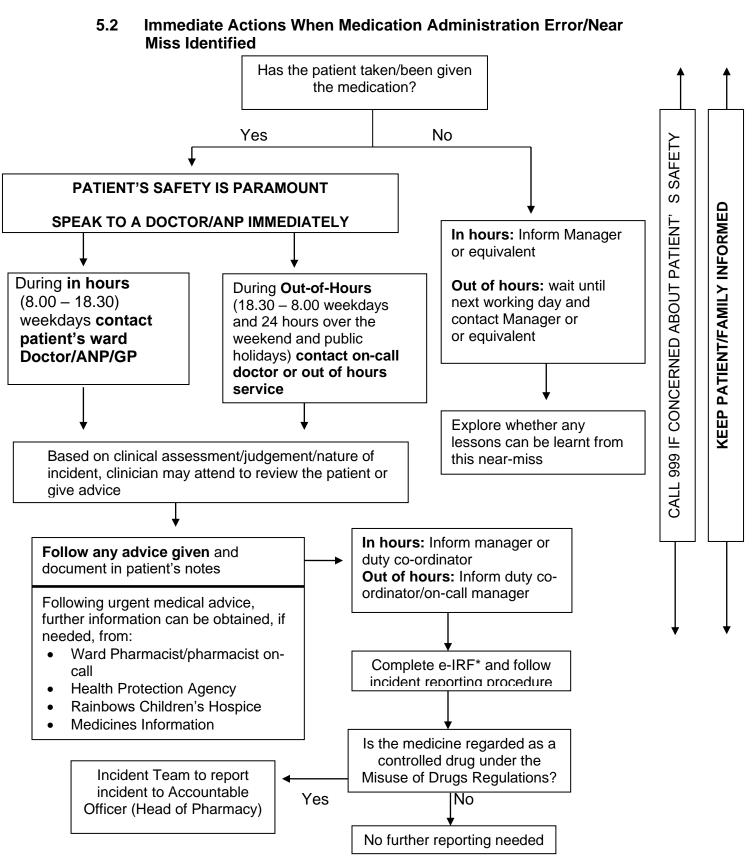
#### **Preparation and Administration Errors**

- Administration without a valid authorisation
- Patient administered the wrong medication / dose / route
- Patient administered an out of date medicine
- Medication administered to the wrong patient
- Medication omitted without a clinical rationale
- Medication incorrectly prepared
- Incorrect infusion rate
- Inappropriate use of "prn" medicines
- Medication administered late / early\*

\*(LPT recognises this is a complex issue and the full context of late/early administration should be taken into account, however where it would have a significantly detrimental effect on patient care, this would constitute an error)

#### **Monitoring Errors**

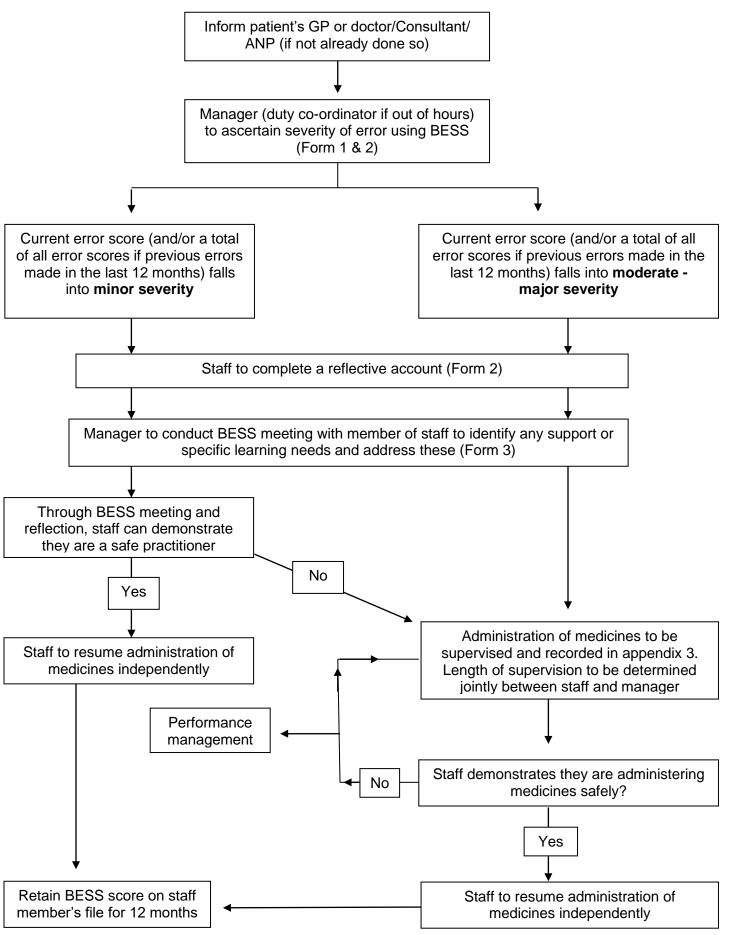
- Inappropriate monitoring/follow up
- Failure to monitor therapeutic levels
- Failure to monitor patients / carers self medication



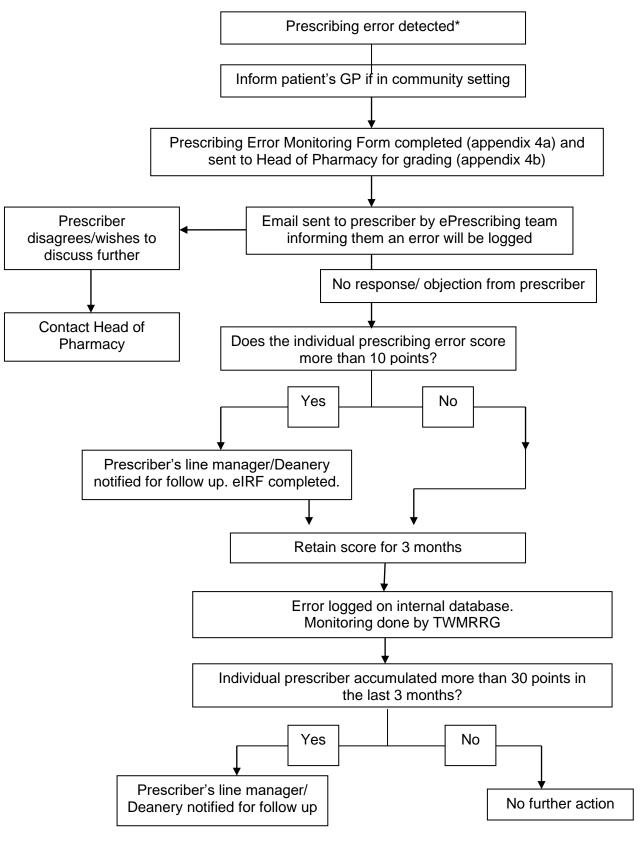
NOTE: do not delay in contacting others in the algorithm if the initial person is proving hard to reach.

<sup>\*</sup> eIRF does not need completing for all prescribing errors – see 5.4

#### 5.3 Management of <u>Administration</u> Error (using BESS tool – see appendix 2)

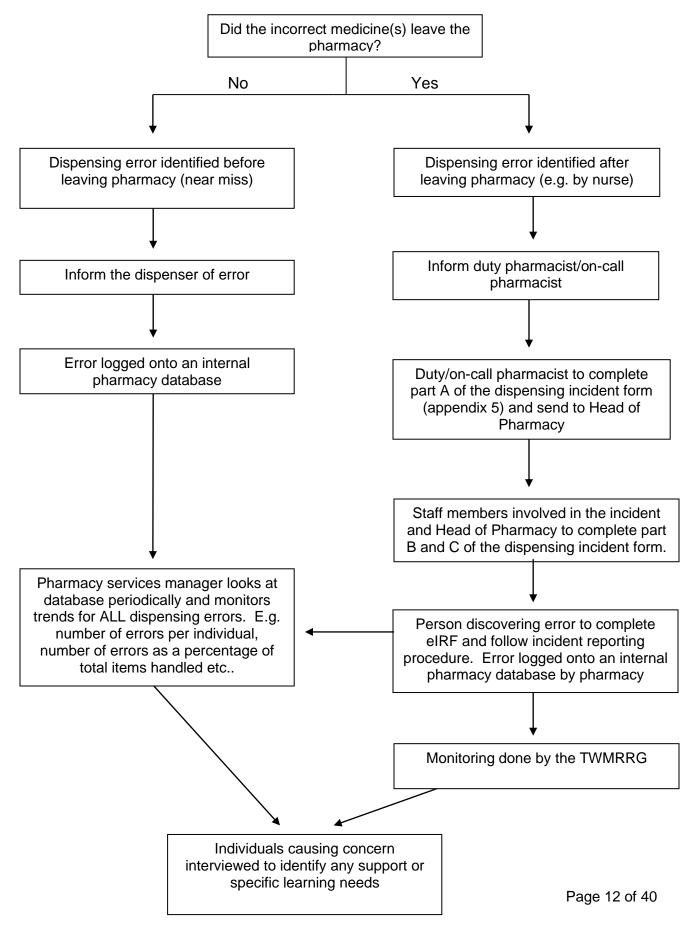


#### 5.4 Management of **Prescribing** Error



\*In exceptional circumstances LPT pharmacist can terminate the prescription if that is in the patient's best interest.

#### 5.5 Management of **Dispensing** Error



#### 5.6 Management of Member of Staff Making Medication Error

Human error is inevitable. A member of staff who has been practising successfully does not suddenly become incompetent or unsafe after a single medication error. However, for an error to occur an important step in the process would have to be omitted and there is a potential for this to recur if the cause is not identified. It is therefore vital that the line manager and member of staff who made the error identify exactly what went wrong, how and take steps to rectify this.

The line manager must ensure that any remedial action (such as supervised practice) is carried out as soon as possible. Prolonged delay in resuming activity could adversely affect the staff member's confidence and practice in their area.

Minor prescribing errors (such as poor legibility or failure to use capital letters) can be pointed out to the member of staff and corrections made. Repetitive errors of this kind should be reported to the prescriber's line manager.

Carrying out supervised practice can provide assurance that staff who made the error is following correct procedures. The method and length of supervised practice will depend primarily on the severity of the error and/or potential for harm. Other factors to consider include availability of support staff to supervise, insight of the member of staff as detailed in their reflective account (appendix 2, Form 3)), circumstances surrounding the medication error, confidence of the member of staff and any previous incidents. The method and length of supervised practice should ideally be decided in partnership between the line manager and staff who made the medication error. At the end of the supervised practice both parties must be confident that the member of staff has changed his/her practice so that the likelihood of future medication error is minimal. Tool in appendix 3 must be used when supervising/ assessing member of staff following administration error.

If repeated errors occur by the same member of staff despite all efforts from the Trust to provide additional training and other measures deemed necessary, the line manager should seek advice from the Clinical Governance Lead, their professional lead and Human Resources. Together they will consider the options open to them to protect patients from harm. This may include, but not limited to, the recourse to manage the member of staff using the LPT Performance Management Policy and Procedure and/or LPT's Disciplinary Policy and Procedure.

#### 5.7 Reflection for Member of Staff Making Medication Error

The member of staff should be encouraged to write a written account of the events leading up to, during and after the incident. This can help the member of staff and line manager identify what went wrong, how and why. This is also a useful source of information during the investigation. A tool to do this is in appendix 2 (Form 3).

#### 5.8 Informing Patient/Parent

The Trust acknowledges that when things go wrong, open and honest communication with the patient and / or relatives is fundamental to the ongoing partnership between them, those providing their care and the Trust.

The patient should be informed by nurse in charge, line manager or the doctor in charge of the patient's care at that moment in time. If appropriate an apology should be given, acknowledging that an apology is not an admission of liability.

If appropriate, following the investigation, a meeting should be offered to the patient and/or relatives with the relevant clinician(s) / personnel. The purpose of such a meeting would be to discuss the findings of the investigation, share the lessons learned and outline the recommendations put into place to reduce the risk of a similar incident reoccurring in the future. Refer to the Duty of Candour Policy for more information.

#### 5.9 Medium to Long Term Actions following Medication Error

Patient safety is paramount and must be addressed immediately when an error is discovered. In the medium to long term, the individual, service, directorate and the organisation must learn lessons from the error to ensure that such occurrence is minimised as far as possible. Where directorate governance mechanisms identify themes and trends in medication error incident reporting, local action will be taken in addition to the escalation as described in point 4.4. This may include escalation outside of the directorate to the TWMRRG. The TWMRRG monitor trends across LPT. Following trend analysis, recommendations or actions will be made by these groups to the appropriate areas of the organisation.

#### 6.0 Management and Implementation

This policy will be implemented and disseminated throughout the organisation, in accordance to the post ratification process. Following approval the policy will be catalogued in the Trust register of Policies and posted on the intranet.

It is the responsibility of the Service Lead to ensure that staff are familiar and compliant with this policy and have documented evidence of this.

#### 7.0 Training Needs

All staff required to manage administration errors will receive a one-off face-to-face training from a member of the pharmacy team or individual approved by the pharmacy team to deliver the training.

#### 8.0 Monitoring Compliance and Effectiveness

The Directorate Patient Safety and Experience sub groups or equivalent group will monitor adverse incidents across all service areas of their directorate including aggregate analysis and identify any trends and themes. This includes advising the

directorate management team on significant areas of risk through their local governance reporting mechanisms. The TWMRRG will also obtain reports on medication errors. This group, supported by directorate Patient Safety and Experience sub group or equivalent will ensure that themes are identified and the organisation learns from medication incidents.

Ref	Minimum Requirements	Evidence for Self-assessment	Process for Monitoring	Responsible Individual / Group	Frequency of monitoring
5.3	Spot check for administration errors	BESS process followed	Search on Safeguard	Policy Author, TWMRRG	Annual
5.4	Spot check for prescribing errors	Flowchart followed	Search internal database	Policy Author, TWMRRG	Annual
5.5	Spot check for dispensing errors	Flowchart followed	Search internal database	Policy Author, TWMRRG	Annual

#### **References and Associated Documentation**

Cobbs, D and Davis, M 1986. Evaluating Medication Errors, *Journal of Nursing Administration*, 16 (4) pp.41-44.

Incident Reporting Policy

Performance Management Policy and Procedure

Disciplinary Policy and Procedure

Duty of Candour Policy (Incorporating being Open Principles)

#### **Stakeholders and Consultation**

## Circulated to the following individuals for comments

Name	Designation
Anthony Oxley	Head of Pharmacy
Joanne Charles	Lead Pharmacist CHS Directorate
Rachel Calton	Pharmacist
Robyn McAskill	Pharmacy Clinical Services Manager
Joanne Wilson	Lead Nurse – FYPC Directorate
Claire Armitage	Lead Nurse – Adult Mental Health
	Directorate
Vicki Spencer	Clinical Governance Lead – FYPC
	Directorate
Heather Darlow	Clinical Governance Lead – CHS
	Directorate
Jacquie Burden	Clinical Governance Lead – Adult Mental
	Health Directorate
Jenny Dolphin	Clinical Governance Manager - AMH
N O' Kelly	Clinical Director – CHS Directorate
Helen Burchnall	Clinical Director – FYPC Directorate
Caroline Barclay	Nurse Consultant – CHS Directorate
M Al-Uzri	Clinical Director – Adult Mental Health
	Directorate

## **BESS Task and Finish Group**

Name	Designation
Anthony Oxley	Head of Pharmacy
Joanne Charles	Lead Pharmacist CHS Directorate
Tejas Khatau	Lead Pharmacist FYPC Directorate
Rebecca Mitchell	Ward Matron
Jenny Dolphin	Clinical Governance Manager AMH
	Directorate
Roshnee Gill	Ward Manager
Jodhun Persand	Acting Ward Matron
Lynn Wroe	Team Leader
Christine Ives	Leicester University

#### **Bennion Error Scoring System (BESS) Paperwork**

#### Introduction

The Bennion Error Scoring System must be applied to medication <u>administration</u> errors made by staff. It is a simple, easy to follow process. It is derived from The El Dorado Medication Error Tool (D Cobb and M Davis, 1986). It <u>should not</u> be used to assess other kinds of medication incidents.

Where possible this process should be undertaken by the line manager in the presence of the member of staff who has made the error but could be conducted over the telephone if necessary. Line managers must be trained in the application of the tool before using it.

All incidents where a BESS score is required should also have been entered as IRFs. Please note that Form 1 and Form 3 are to be completed on Ulysses only (it is in this policy for illustration only). Once both of these forms are completed on Ulysses, you can print them and combine with Form 2 before putting into the individual's personal file.

Remember to inform the patient that a medication incident has occurred.

It is essential that confidentiality is maintained at all times. Only the member of staff who has made the error should be informed of the score at the time (although scores will be archived centrally and will be reviewed by the medicines management/governance teams after the fact) unless the error results in actual physical harm to the patient and immediate medical interventions are required i.e. transfer to A & E. In such cases the incident may well have to be investigated as a Serious Incident and appropriate actions therein that may be necessary. Under these circumstances the following should contacted:

**Monday – Friday 09.00 – 17.00.** Matron

Out of these office hours – Duty co-ordinator/on call manager

#### Overview of Steps to Complete BESS and Ulysses

Activity	Person Responsible for completion
Complete an eIRF	Whoever discovers the error
Complete 'BESS Error Reporting Form' (Form 1) on Ulysses only. Print a completed copy to put into the individual's personal file.	Line manager/senior member of staff
Complete 'Reflection on Incident' (Form 2) on paper.	Staff member who made the error
Complete 'BESS Meeting and Outcome' (Form 3) on Ulysses only. Print a completed copy to put into the individual's personal file	Line manager/senior member of staff (with staff member who made the error)
Add BESS score and outcome on eIRF	Line manager/senior member of staff
Scan any other associated paperwork on eIRF	Line manager/senior member of staff

#### **Stage 1 – Error Category**

The tool is underpinned by the Leicestershire Medicine Code and an error is judged to have occurred when the person administrating has deviated from this code.

The tool should be used to score errors in the following categories:

Wrong time

Wrong date

Wrong patient

Wrong route

Wrong medication

Wrong formulation

Wrong dose

Extra dose

Medication omitted (without medical guidance or clinical justification from

nurse) provided it is clear that an individual is implicated

Medication given when allergy stated

Medication given without legal authorisation (T2/T3/C6 or unsigned

prescription)

Expired drug

Presence of a known contra-indication

#### Stage 2 – Route given

The scoring system for this stage is based upon 2 factors

- 1) The absorption rate
- 2) The reversibility of effects

IV I/M or S/C Oral/entracheal/nebuliser Topical PV or PR Sub Lingual.

#### Stage 3 – The drug administered in error

The attributed scores for each category of drug reflect the potential harm that could result were the drug to be administered inappropriately.

#### Scoring of second qualified member of staff, if involved in an error

For an injection or a Controlled Drug the nurse administering the injection/drug and the nurse checking the injection/drug are both deemed to be equally responsible for the error. Two sets of documentation must be completed - one for each nurse.

#### Scoring errors involving more than 1 member of staff

If an error is reported to the co-ordinator and it is noted that previous nurses have made the same error e.g. omission of medication over a number of days; one BESS score should be calculated which will be attributable to all staff involved.

#### Scoring when nurse has made more than one error in the last 12 months

The BESS scores from all previous errors made in the last 12 months should be added to the most recent BESS score. The accrued BESS score should be used when deciding on the severity of error. Example: Nurse A has a BESS score of 7 on file owing to an error made in the last 12 months. If same nurse makes another error also scoring 7, although the most recent error is in the low severity, the accumulation of the two BESS scores results in high severity and therefore must be managed as such.

#### Scoring of error involving more than one medicine

The medication with the highest BESS scoring should be selected.

#### **Errors not scored under BESS**

# 1. Incidents involving dietary supplements in food or fluid preparations e.g. Fortisip.

Errors are not to be reported unless the patient suffers an adverse reaction.

#### 2. IV fluids are only scored under BESS in the following circumstances:

- Wrong medication, wrong patient or wrong dose
- Medication omitted
- Medication given when allergy stated
- Medication given against an unsigned prescription

In cases where the fluid has not run through in the identified time e.g. too fast or too slow, do not score under BESS.

#### 3. Medication administration issues involving T2/T3 forms

An IRF should be completed but not a BESS score.

# BESS Error Reporting Form (Form 1) (to be completed on Ulysses only)

IRF Number:				
Transci.				
Staff involved: See IRF				
Staff Level at the Time of Inc	cident			
	Planned Staffing	Actual Staffing	Number of Bank/Agency staff	
Number of Registered staff:				
Number of non-registered staff:				
				•
For handwritten Prescription/authorisation, was it clear and legible (circle)?		Yes	No	N/A
(if 'No' enclose a copy)				
For incidents in in-patient areas was the nurse carrying out the drug administration round wearing a tabard indicating she was not to be disturbed?		Yes	No	N/A
Drug name, dose and formulation identifiable from manufacturer's box/pharmacy label (circle)?		Yes	No	
For incidents in in-patient areas, was the patient wearing a wrist band (circle)?		Yes	No	N/A
Form Completed by (name an	nd signature):		Date: /	/

## **BESS Rating Scale**

ERROR CATEGORY	POINTS AWARDED
WRONG TIME	1 POINT
WRONG DATE	1 POINT
WRONG PATIENT	3 POINTS
WRONG ROUTE	2 POINTS
WRONG MEDICATION	3 POINTS
WRONG DOSE	2 POINTS
EXTRA DOSE	2 POINTS
MEDICATION OMITTED	2 POINTS
MEDICATION GIVEN WHEN ALLERGY STATED	3 POINTS
MEDICATION GIVEN WITHOUT LEGAL AUTHORISATION (E.G. UNSIGNED	1 POINT
PRESCRIPTION)	
WRONG FORMULATION (E.G. LIQUID, TABLET ETC)	1 POINT
EXPIRED DRUG	2 POINTS
PRESENCE OF A KNOWN CONTRAINDICATION	3 POINTS

# **Medication Classification** (if in doubt of what classification a drug belongs to, please look up in the BNF)

1 point	2 points	3 points	4 points	6 points
	Eye preparations	Vaccines		
	Allopurinol/colchicine	urinary disorders		
	Contraceptives	Drugs for genito-		
	trimethoprim	anti-emetics		
	cephalosporin and	Non-antihistamine		
	Oral penicillin,	Diltiazem		
NRT	Disulfuram	ACEI and ARB	,	
Acamprosate	CNS stimulants	Alpha-blockers	Cytokine modulators	
Paracetamol	Pseudoephedrine	hypertensive	tacrolimus	
Orlistat	Oral salbutamol	vasodilators & anti-	Leflunomide and	
Cough preparations	and steroids	Centrally acting	Ciclosporin,	
Mucolytic	Inhaled broncodilators	Beta-blocker	Penicillinamine/gold	
Anti-histamines	blockers	disease	Anti-virals	
antagonist	Calcium channel	inflammatory bowel	Aminoglycosides	
Lipid-regulators Leukotriene receptor	Nitrates/anti-anginals Dihydopyridine	infusion/glucagon Management of	medication	
Anti-platelets			Anti-epileptics Parkinsons	
vasodilators	Ulcer healing drugs Diuretics	Oral steroids Glucose	MAOIs Anti opiloptics	
Peripheral	anxiolytics	agents	Any IV agents	
Vitamins & Minerals	Hypnotics and	Oral antidiabetic	Electrolytes	Lithium
Laxatives	elsewhere)	antagonists	Narcotic analgesics	Clozapine
agents	drugs (not listed	Narcotic	verapamil	Insulin
Antidiarrhoeal	Endocrine system	Barbiturates	including digoxin,	agents
medicines	agents	agents	Antiarrythmics	& Antineoplastic
Anti-motility	Anti-inflammatory	Antipsychotic	Thrombolytic agents.	Chemotherapeutic
Antacids.	Antidepressants	listed elsewhere)	LMWH	components
ENT	Non-MAOI	infectives.(not	(except warfarin)	Blood & blood
Topical drugs &	Antidementia drugs.	Antibiotics/anti-	Oral anti-coagulants	Warfarin & Heparin

Add 2 points if in under 18 year old

ROUTE GIVEN	POINTS AWARDED
I/V, I/M OR S/C	3 POINTS
ORAL (INCLUDES PEG, JEG ETC)	2 POINTS
TOPICAL (INCLUDING EYE/EAR/NOSE DROPS)	1 POINTS
INHALED	1 P0INT
RECTAL OR VAGINAL	1 P0INT
SUB LINGUAL	1 POINT

BESS category (provide details)	Points score	
Error category:		
Route Given:		
Medication classification (if more than one medicuse highest scoring medication classification):	ine involved,	
	Total	
Form Completed by (name and signature):	Date: /	/
Name and signature of staff member:	Date: /	/

# Interpretation of Score and Outcome

TOTAL POINTS SCORE (if more than one error, accumulate score from past 12 months)	OUTCOME
LOW SEVERITY CATEGORY (3 – 7 POINT)	Staff member involved in error can continue to administer medication.
	NB: Through their reflection and meeting, staff member must demonstrate that they are a safe practitioner. If there is any doubt, the manager can ask the member of staff to undertake supervised practice, even though their points score falls in the 'low severity' category.  • Completion of 'Reflection on Incident' form and BESS meeting with line manager.  • Score retained on file for 12 months.
HIGH SEVERITY CATEGORY (8 POINTS OR MORE)	Staff member involved in error must not continue to administer medication.  • 'Reflection on Incident' Form and BESS meeting must be completed  • Supervised practice i.e not to administer medication without supervision from another qualified nurse  • Score retained on file for 12 months.

# Reflection on Incident (Form 2) (completed on paper and taken with you for your BESS meeting)

	escribe the context of the error (e.g shift, time of day, staff resources, activity levels c)
• •	
••	
_	
th	rovide a detailed description of the circumstances surrounding the error i.e describe see period immediately before and during the error. Continue on a separate sheet if equired.
• •	
• •	
••	
••	
• •	
••	
• •	
• •	
••	
• •	
D in	o you feel there were any personal issues that were affecting you on the day of the cident?
••	
••	
••	
••	
• •	
••	

What factors did you feel contributed to the error (e.g. distraction, interruption, fatigue, workload, lack of support, stress, patient disturbance)?
How do you feel a similar error could be avoided in the future?
Then do you look a chimar offer obtain be avoided in the fatare.
What have you learnt from this error?
Staff name and signature:  Date: / /

# BESS Meeting and Outcome (Form 3) —to be completed on Ulysses only by the person conducting the BESS interview

Staff name:
BESS score:
Total of BESS score accrued in last 12 months (where applicable):
Any comments on the 'Reflection on Incident' (Form 2)? E.g. Anything missing from form, anything not supported by other data
Good practice areas identified/ required
Agreed action to be taken by individual
Action points identified for care environment/service/trust
·

Can the practitioner resume their role <u>without</u> further supervision/assessment of competence (look at 'Interpretation of Score and Outcome', consider reflection and information/observation in meeting)?				
Yes No				
Line manager to provide rationale if above outcome of Score and Outcome'	me differs	from 'Inte	rpretation	
Form Completed by (name and signature):	Date:	/	/	
Name and signature of staff member:	Date:	/	/	

Appendix 3

# **Administration of Medicines - Record of Supervised Practice**

Name of staff:
----------------

Episode No	Route	Date	Medication	Supervisors Signature	Competent	Not competent

#### PRESCRIBER ERROR MONITORING FORM

This form is only to be used for prescribing errors that are detected before administration of incorrect medication to a patient. In cases where incorrect medication has been administered, the standard Trust incident form (IRF) should be completed. The doctor should be informed that a potential error has occurred and accept that a mistake has been made before completion of the form. The form is not to be used to record disagreements about drug choice, dosage etc. where the prescriber has written a correct and legally valid prescription.

Prescription Type	
Clozapine escalation chart	
Depot card	
Detox chart	
Discharge Prescription	
Electronic Prescription (Inpatient)	
Electronic Prescription (Outpatient)	
Standard Trust Prescription (Five day emergency card)	
Warfarin chart	

Error		
Conflicting dose information		
Drug contra-indicated due to allergy		
Drug Interaction		
Drug not discontinued		
Drug prescribed as PRN but should be regular		
Duplicate prescription		
Incomplete PRN details		
Incorrect dose		
Incorrect dose time		
Incorrect drug		
Incorrect duration of treatment		
Incorrect formulation		
Incorrect frequency		
Medication not covered by T2/T3 MHA Forms		
Medication omitted		
Misdated prescription		
Missing route of administration		
Therapeutic duplication		
Other (please state)		

Prescriber	<b>Detected by</b>
Name:	Name:
Signature:	Signature:
Date:	Date:

Action suggested by eP Technician to minimise occurrence i.e. system defaults

Once complete the form should be returned to Anthony Oxley, Pharmacy Department, Glenfield Hospital

#### **GRADING PRESCRIBING ERRORS**

### **Prescribing Error Grade = Medication Classification X Type of Error**

**Medication Classification** (if in doubt of what classification a drug belongs to, please look up in the BNF)

Topical drugs & ENT Antacids. Anti-motility medicines Antidiarrhoeal agents Laxatives Vitamins & Minerals Peripheral vasodilators Anti-platelets Lipid-regulators Leukotriene receptor antagonist Anti-histamines Mucolytic Cough preparations Orlistat Paracetamol Acamprosate NRT	Antidementia drugs. Non-MAOI Antidepressants Anti-inflammatory agents Endocrine system drugs (not listed elsewhere) Hypnotics and anxiolytics Ulcer healing drugs Diuretics Nitrates/anti-anginals Dihydopyridine Calcium channel blockers Inhaled broncodilators and steroids Oral salbutamol Pseudoephedrine CNS stimulants Disulfuram Oral penicillin, cephalosporin and trimethoprim Contraceptives Allopurinol/colchicine Eye preparations	Antibiotics/anti- infectives.(not listed elsewhere) Antipsychotic agents Barbiturates Narcotic antagonists Oral antidiabetic agents Oral steroids Glucose infusion/glucagon Management of inflammatory bowel disease Beta-blocker Centrally acting vasodilators & anti- hypertensive Alpha-blockers ACEI and ARB Diltiazem Non-antihistamine anti-emetics Drugs for genito- urinary disorders Vaccines	Oral anti-coagulants (except warfarin) LMWH Thrombolytic agents. Antiarrythmics including digoxin, verapamil Narcotic analgesics Electrolytes Any IV agents MAOIs Anti-epileptics Parkinsons medication Aminoglycosides Anti-virals Penicillinamine/gold Ciclosporin, Leflunomide and tacrolimus Cytokine modulators	Warfarin & Heparin Blood & blood components Chemotherapeutic & Antineoplastic agents Insulin Clozapine Lithium
1 point	Eye preparations  2 points	Vaccines 3 points	4 points	6 points

## Type of Error

Examples of Type of Prescribing Error	Potential or actual impact	Grade
Legal/Procedural Error		
Incomplete information (e.g. no dose, frequency, route, time)		
Mis-spelt drug name		
Incorrect formulation (e.g. tablet prescribed instead of liquid, ordinary tablets prescribed instead of controlled release)	Detentially	
No indication on prn medication	Potentially problematic	1
Errors with little chance of being carried out (e.g. digoxin 250mg prescribed instead of micrograms)	problematic	
Medication prescribed at the wrong time of the day (e.g. zopiclone		
prescribed in the morning)		
No maximum dose for prn medicines		
Unintentional duplicate therapy (e.g.2 drugs with the same mode of		
action/from the same family/with the same effect)		
"black dot" interaction without justification, appropriate monitoring or		
contingency in place (e.g. NSAID prescribed to a patient taking		
Lithium without plan to monitor levels)		
Drug – disease interaction without justification (e.g. NSAID in a patient with CKD level 4, LMWH in patient with bleed)	Mild/moderate	2
Regular medication not prescribed unintentionally	Willa/Moderate	2
Sub-therapeutic dose (e.g. flucloxicillin 500mg BD)		
Incorrect dose(but within BNF limit)		
Incorrect frequency		
Inappropriate length of therapy (e.g with antibiotics)/failure to stop		
therapy		
Drug unintentionally prescribed as regular and prn		
Wrong route		
Completely incorrect drug prescribed	Corious	3
Incorrect dose (but above BNF limit)	Serious	3
Drug prescribed which the patient has a documented SEVERE		
allergy to (e.g. Augmentin for a patient with penicillin allergy)	Severe or fatal	4
Weekly drug prescribed daily (e.g. methotrexate)		

Add 2 points if in under 18 year old.

#### LEICESTERSHIRE PARTNERSHIP N.H.S. TRUST

#### **DISPENSING INCIDENT FORM**

This form is to be used for all dispensing incidents that have left the control of the pharmacy. Errors that have been picked up by the checking process should be recorded on the internal error form.

The member of staff who is notified of or discovers the error should complete Part A of the form as soon as possible. The form should then be passed immediately to the Associate Director: Medicines Management who will ensure that parts B and C are completed by the relevant individuals.

A copy of the completed form should be retained in the Associate Director: Medicines Management's office and details of the error entered in the dispensing error log.

Part A Your Name:	Job Litle:
Date when incident reported to pharmacy	:
Date of Incident:	
Name and Job Title of person reporting in	cident:
Description of Incident (patient's name, which incorrect medication, did patient suffer has the incident)  If possible retain the erroneous item with the incident incident incident item.	rm and initial response by pharmacy to
Part B Medication Dispensed by (Name a	ınd Job Title)
Comments by dispenser including circums	stances of error
Medication Checked by (Name and Job T	ïtle)
Comments by checker including factors of	ontributing to error

Part C Con	nments by the Associate Director : Medicines Management
Changes in	n procedures required:
Category of	of Incident
Section A:	Source of Patient 01 = INPATIENT 02 = OUTPATIENT 03 = TTO OR LEAVE
Section B:	Outcome  01 = No risk to patient  02 = risk of under treatment  03 = risk of high dose within BNF limits  04 = risk of dose above BNF limits  05 = demonstrable harm to patient  06 = death of patient
Section C:	Error Category  Contents Incorrect  01 = wrong drug  02 = wrong strength or dose form  03 = wrong quantity  04 = out of date stock  05 = item omitted
	Label Incorrect  06 = wrong drug name  07 = wrong drug strength or form  08 = wrong directions  09 = wrong quantity  10 = wrong ward  11 = wrong expiry date  12 = wrong patient name
	<u>Other</u>
	13 = Drugs given to incorrect patient 14 = Incomplete/incorrect additional labelling

#### **HIGH RISK MEDICATIONS WITH RESPECT TO OMISSIONS**

ALFUZOSIN ANALGESICS ANTI-ANGINA MEDICATION ANTI-ARRHYTHMICS ANTIBIOTICS

ANTI-DIABETIC MEDICINES INCLUDING INSULIN

**ANTI-EMETICS** 

ANTI-EPILEPTICS

**ANTI-HYPERTENSIVES** 

**ANTIMUSCARINICS** 

BENZODIAZEPINES FOR DETOX PATIENTS

**BUPRENORPHINE** 

**CLOZAPINE** 

DRUGS FOR PARKINSON'S DISEASE

DUTASTERIDE/FINASTERIDE

ESTABLISHED ENTERAL FEEDS

EYE-DROPS FOR GLAUCOMA AND UVEITIS

**HIV MEDICATIONS** 

HYPOSTOP/GLUCAGON

IV/SC FLUIDS

LOW-MOLECULAR WEIGHT HEPARINS

**METHADONE** 

**NEUTROPENIA TREATMENTS** 

**ORAL CONTRACEPTIVES** 

**OVERDOSE REVERSAL AGENTS** 

**PHYTOMENADIONE** 

**PYRIDOSTIGMINE** 

QUININE SULPHATE

**ASTHMA TREATMENTS** 

SHORT COURSE / DAILY REPLACEMENT STEROIDS

VENLAFAXINE, PAROXETINE, SERTRALINE

VITAMINS B & C BPC INJECTION

WARFARIN

#### **LOSSES OR DISCREPANCIES - COMMUNITY**

#### **Controlled Drugs**

When a discrepancy between the balance on the Controlled Drug Record Card (CDRC) and the actual stock is noticed this **must** be investigated by the registered nurse taking the following steps.

Step	Action required	Action completed (√)
1	Report to the line manager and request a second checker.	
2	Check for the following:	
	Additions/Subtractions recorded on the CDRC for accuracy	
	<ul> <li>Any missing records following administration by the nurse/GP/OOHs/other supporting services.</li> </ul>	
	Any breakage or spillage that has not been recorded	
	That stock has not been put into the wrong box or misplaced.	
	<ul> <li>Consider the possibility of a pharmacy dispensing error if additional supplies have been received into the community</li> </ul>	
	setting since the last correct check and if appropriate contact the dispensing pharmacy for further information.	
3	Report the incident on Safeguard	
4	Inform line manager of the outcome to the investigation	
	If the discrepancy is resolved – <b>no further action.</b>	
5	If the discrepancy is still unresolved the nurse or their line	
	manager must also inform:	
	The patient	
	The Community Services Matron	
	The Local Police (& obtain a crime reference number)	
	The Head of Pharmacy	
	<ul> <li>If OOHs the On-call manager and on-call pharmacist (for discussion)</li> </ul>	
6	Any further requirements for investigation by the nurse will be agreed in conjunction with the Lead Nurse for Community Services.	

#### Other Medicines in the Patient Home

If the registered nurse is alerted by the patient, or by other means, to the **possible loss of medication which causes concern**, the nurse should make an incident report and inform the prescriber. The nurse should then discuss with their manager to decide if any further action is required.

Appendix 8

#### **NHS Constitution**

The NHS will provide a universal service for all based on clinical need, not ability to pay. The NHS will provide a comprehensive range of services

Shape its services around the needs and preferences of individual patients, their families and their carers	
Respond to different needs of different sectors of the population	□✓
Work continuously to improve quality services and to minimise errors	
Support and value its staff	
Work together with others to ensure a seamless service for patients	□✓
Help keep people healthy and work to reduce health inequalities	
Respect the confidentiality of individual patients and provide open access to information about services, treatment and performance	

#### **Due Regard Screening Template**

Section 1		
Name of activity/proposal	Medication Error Policy	
Date Screening commenced	04/04/2017	
Directorate / Service carrying out the	FYPC	
assessment		
Name and role of person undertaking	Tejas Khatau – Lead Pharmacist and Policy	
this Due Regard (Equality Analysis)	Author	
Give an overview of the aims, objectives and purpose of the proposal:		
AIMS:	•	
T	ation among any managanal managanthy antahy and	

The purpose of this policy is ensure medication errors are managed promptly, safely and fairly.

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

The policy is intended to provide framework on how various medication errors are managed within the Trust

Section 2	
Protected Characteristic	If the proposal/s have a positive or negative impact please give brief details
Age	No negative impacts identified.
Disability	No negative impacts identified.
Gender reassignment	No negative impacts identified.
Marriage & Civil Partnership	No negative impacts identified.
Pregnancy & Maternity	No negative impacts identified.
Race	No negative impacts identified.
Religion and Belief	No negative impacts identified.
Sex	No negative impacts identified.
Sexual Orientation	No negative impacts identified.
Other equality groups?	No negative impacts identified.

#### Section 3

Does this activity propose major changes in terms of scale or significance for LPT? For example, is there a clear indication that, although the proposal is minor it is likely to have a major affect for people from an equality group/s? Please tick appropriate box below.

Yes		No ✓	
High risk: Complete a full EIA starting click here to proceed to Part B		Low risk: Go to Section 4.	<b>√</b>

#### Section 4

If this proposal is low risk please give evidence or justification for how you reached this decision:

reactica titis accision.				
No negative impacts were identified with regards to the protected characteristics.				
Signed by reviewer/assessorTejas KhatauDate04/10/21				
Sign off that this proposal is low risk and does not require a full Equality Analysis				
Head of Service Signed		Date		

#### DATA PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCREENING

Data Privacy impact assessment (DPIAs) are a tool which can help organisations identify the most effective way to comply with their data protection obligations and meet Individual's expectations of privacy.

The following screening questions will help the Trust determine if there are any privacy issues associated with the implementation of the Policy. Answering 'yes' to any of these questions is an indication that a DPIA may be a useful exercise. An explanation for the answers will assist with the determination as to whether a full DPIA is required which will require senior management support, at this stage the Head of Data Privacy must be involved.

Name of Document: Medication Error Policy			
Completed by:	Tejas Khatau		
Job title	Lead Pharmacist – FYPC Services		Date 7/10/2021
Screening Questions		Yes / No	Explanatory Note
1. Will the process described in the document involve the collection of new information about individuals? This is information in excess of what is required to carry out the process described within the document.		N	If an error at any level is made, information will be collected and stored, either in the staff members' personal file or electronic database. This is not 'new' information as this process has been established for a number of years and only essential information pertaining to the incident is held. This would not be classed as excessive.
2. Will the process described in the document compel individuals to provide information about them? This is information in excess of what is required to carry out the process described within the document.		N	Following an administration error, staff will be asked to do a reflection on the incident. This would not be classed as excessive.
3. Will information about individuals be disclosed to organisations or people who have not previously had routine access to the information as part of the process described in this document?		Y	Possibly yes. Information could be shared with individuals within LPT for the purpose of understanding themes and triggers for medication errors.
<b>4.</b> Are you using information about individuals for a purpose it is not currently used for, or in a way it is not currently used?		Υ	As point 3 above
5. Does the process outlined in this document involve the use of new technology which might be perceived as being privacy intrusive? For example, the use of biometrics.		N	
<b>6.</b> Will the process outlined in this document result in decisions being made or action taken against individuals in ways which can have a significant impact on them?		Υ	It describes the thresholds and action to take following medication errors.
7. As part of the process outlined in this document, is the information about individuals of a kind particularly likely to raise privacy concerns or expectations? For examples, health records, criminal records or other information that people would consider to be particularly private.		Υ	Possibility. As part of the staff members' refection, they could highlight personal circumstances that contributed to the error
<b>8.</b> Will the process require you to contact individuals in ways which they may find intrusive?		N	

If the answer to any of these questions is 'Yes' please contact the Data Privacy Team via Lpt.dataprivacy@nhs.net In this case, ratification of a procedural document will not take place until review by the Head of Data Privacy.			
Data Privacy approval name:	Sam Kirkland, Head of Data Privacy		
	Thered		
Date of approval	07/10/2021		

Acknowledgement: This is based on the work of Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust