



Dr Dai Lloyd AC  
Chair, Health Social Care and Sport Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

18<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Dear Dai

**Health, Social Care and Sport Committee: Inquiry into the use of antipsychotic medication in care homes**

Following the meeting of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee on 17 January I would like to clarify the points made about the issues raised by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society regarding the inspection of medicines in care homes by the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) (formerly Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales).

Firstly, please accept my apologies on behalf of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society for indicating in my evidence to the Committee on 5<sup>th</sup> October that CIW did not include medicines in their inspections of care homes. Having referred back to the transcript of the evidence session, it is clear that the concerns we have about medicines in the CIW inspection process of care homes were not clearly articulated.

Our concerns regarding the inspection of medicines in care homes have been documented in our 2016 policy *Improving medicines use for care home residents* where we stressed that:

*“Standards in the administration and management of medicines in care homes must be assured not only for patient safety but to also meet the expectations of CSSIW. The most recent annual report documenting medication issues in care homes was undertaken in 2007/08. Subsequent annual reports by the regulator disappointingly did not address medication related issues to the same extent and it appears that pharmacists have not been part of the CSSIW inspection team for several years”.*

We understand that CIW care home inspections do take account of medicines as part of an observational framework for inspection undertaken by their inspectors. We remain concerned however that from 2008 onwards, the expertise of a pharmacist has not been included in a robust medication review process as part of care home inspections in Wales. This is in clear contrast to the approach taken in England, where we understand that over 40 pharmacists are directly involved in care home inspections undertaken by the Care Quality Commission.

The distinct absence of medication issues in CIW annual reports since 2008 and the decision not to include a pharmacist in inspection processes at that time, has been a concern of ours for nearly a decade. We were assured by the 2007/08 CIW annual report that medicines management was being fully addressed when medication management was identified as an area needing attention and reported that their inspectors had placed ‘requirements for action’ in relation to medication in almost a third (32%) of care homes. We have been concerned however that subsequent CIW reports published annually since 2008 have not commented on medicines management to such an extent.

It was somewhat reassuring to hear from the Cabinet Secretary for Health, Social Care and Sport, during the Committee session on 17 January, that issues of medication practice have been identified via CIW inspections with 54 non-compliance notices issued to care homes in the past 12 months in relation to medication practice. While it

appears the medication is included in the inspection process of individual care homes, we would still question the robustness and consistency of this process without the expert input of a pharmacist. However we are heartened to hear that CIW have responded to what has been reported during the committee's inquiry by setting out the improvements to the way it works in this area. We are thankful to you and your fellow Committee members for instigating this development.

I hope this helps to clarify the concerns of RPS and once again would like to extend my apologies to you and the Committee for any inaccuracies in the evidence provided during the inquiry into the use of antipsychotics in Care Homes.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch should you wish to discuss this issue further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mair Davies', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Mair Davies FFRPS, FRPharmS, FHEA

RPS Director for Wales