



Abacus Care Cheshire Update

Issue 20, April 2010

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Staff News

Congratulations to Barry, who has recently been promoted to Team Leader.

Job Opportunities

Due to the continued heavy demand for Abacus Care Cheshire's services, our nursing and home care teams are still seeking further part and full-time staff.

If you know of any friends or family members who would love to be part Abacus Care Cheshire's continued success, please pass on their contact details or tell them to get in touch!

Messages from the Director

The weather has changed for the better and the referrals for domiciliary care packages are thundering in! As a result of such heavy demand, we are constantly on the look out for new members of staff, so please spread the word amongst any friends or family who might be interested in joining us.

As you know, our administrative and training offices are currently located at Big Storage in Woolston, near the centre of Warrington. However, due to a need to expand our premises and acquire a longer-term lease, we will be looking to relocate to new premises by the end of July this year. Rest assured that we will try to find somewhere close to the existing location.

Our clients have shown a great interest in the Client Forum meeting on the 17th May and we have so far received a number of confirmations from those who will be attending. If you haven't done so already, please mention the event to any clients that you visit.

Lastly a quick note that from this September we will be providing a placements for degree-level student social workers. The social work students will bring enthusiasm, new knowledge and skills to Abacus Care Cheshire. Many staff will be involved within their placements, so, just as with all new members of staff, please make the students feel welcome

Chris

Money Matters

All holiday requests must be authorised by our Domiciliary Care Manager, Ann, and holiday forms must be sent into the SAT Office in good time for this to happen. Your holiday request will be confirmed by email or post. To check the status of your holiday request, please email payroll@abacuscarecheshire.co.uk or send a letter to the Payroll Officer, Duncan at the SAT Office.

For staff who are still on weekly pay, to ensure prompt payment on the Friday, your timesheets must be in by the end of office hours on Monday. If your timesheets arrive later than this it could delay your payment for a further week, until the following Friday.

All staff on temporary contracts who have passed their induction period with Abacus Care Cheshire will be contacted in the next two weeks to be offered a permanent or flexible permanent rota contract. Any questions or queries please contact Ann or Chris.



Don't forget the Client Forum

A reminder that Abacus Care Cheshire's inaugural Client Forum will take place at High Legh Village Hall on 17th May 2010.

The event will start at 10.30am and will include several short talks by the managerial team and a chance to have your say about Abacus Care Cheshire.

Lunch will be accompanied by the Jill Fielding Band playing a broad range of 'folk music with a squeeze of jazz and a touch of rock'.

The day will culminate in the 2010 Staff Awards ceremony and the Director's predictions for the future.

The event is open to all our homecare clients and all members of staff, so please do join us.



Abacus Care Cheshire Staff Resources
<http://www.abacuscarecheshire.co.uk/staff.html>

Events Calendar

This next few regular training sessions will be provided in the training and education room at Big Storage, Woolston on the 6th, 7th, 13th, 14th, 20th, 21st, 27th and 28th May 2010.

Courses on offer during May include: Data Protection, Moving & Handling, Pressure Care, Equal Opportunities, Mental Health Awareness, Medication Management, Dementia Awareness and Care of the Dying.

Other upcoming events are as follows:

17th May 2010 - Client Forum

Keep up to date with the courses available and forthcoming dates of training days by visiting:
www.abacuscarecheshire.co.uk/events/calendar.htm

For further details on available courses and training dates or to register for courses, contact June via training@abacuscarecheshire.co.uk.

Medical Device Alerts

Selected alerts from <http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Publications>

27 Apr 2010 | Medical Device Alert: Alaris GP and Alaris GP Guardrails volumetric pump, manufactured by CareFusion, branded as Cardinal Health (MDA/2010/034)

This Medical Device Alert (MDA) has been issued as due to a software irregularity, if the previous set up is not cleared at start-up, the single bubble detection threshold will default to 100 microlitres, without any indication to the user.

15 Apr 2010 | Medical Device Alert: Blood glucose meters - 5-second CONTOUR® manufactured by Bayer Diabetes Care (MDA/2010/030)

This Medical Device Alert has been issued due to the risk of affected devices showing falsely high readings when testing samples from neonates. Hypoglycaemia may go undiagnosed as a result. This alert supersedes MDA/2008/059 issued on 31 July 2008.

13 Apr 2010 | Medical Device Alert: Mobile hoists - Arjo Minstrel standard type and EPC type manufactured by Medibo Medical NV (MDA/2010/029)

This Medical Device Alert has been issued due to inaccurate maintenance instructions and poor inspection of hanger bar attachments which can cause attachments to fail in use leading to a fall and injury to the person being moved.

12 Apr 2010 | Medical Device Alert: Enteral feeding administration sets and Applix Smart pump sets manufactured by Fresenius Kabi (MDA/2010/028)

This Medical Device Alert has been issued as due to a manufacturing problem, the antifree flow clamp may not automatically open when the set is inserted into the enteral feed pump and its door is closed.

08 Apr 2010 | Medical Device Alert: Endotracheal (ET) tubes, adult and paediatric sizes manufactured by Unomedical (MDA/2010/027)

This Medical Device Alert (MDA) has been issued due to a risk of inadvertent disconnection of the endotracheal tube from the breathing system, interrupting patient ventilation until the tube is reconnected or replaced. This replaces MDA/2010/024 as additional lot numbers have been recalled by the manufacturer.

08 Apr 2010 | Medical Device Alert: PediCap carbon dioxide detector manufactured by Covidien (MDA/2010/026)

This Medical Device Alert (MDA) has been issued as a modification to the indicator paper in the detector may result in increased resistance to airflow, inadequate sensing of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and a delay in detection of an incorrectly placed breathing tube.

10 Mar 2010 | Medical Device Alert: Hoists and standing aids manufactured by BHM Medical Inc (MDA/2010/022)

This Medical Device Alert (MDA) has been issued due to a risk of electric shock when the hoist is connected to the mains supply with a single insulated power cable for battery charging.

2010 Staff Awards coming very soon!

The best support worker, as voted for by the clients, to be announced at the Client Forum.

1st Prize: £100, 2nd Prize: £50, 3rd Prize: £25