

MEDICATION WASTAGE IN LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

Highlights



The discovery of potentially significant medication wastage at long-term care facilities, stemming from the unnecessary return and subsequent discarding of patient medications when doses were changed or medications discontinued, led to this project.

A 4-week study showed that 13% of residents had their pills discarded each month. Province-wide, this extrapolates to 2.5 million pills discarded monthly.

Results and recommendations, such as changing the default medication order from STAT to next weekly medical pouch, were published in a BCMJ article in 2018.

To reflect the recommendations, in 2019, Interior Health changed Physician Orders so they now state: *UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED all medications excluding narcotics and controlled substances will be initiated/discontinued with the next weekly medication delivery.*

Project Complete: 2016 — 2017

