



PRESS RELEASE

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**RATE OF MEDICATION ERRORS IN NURSING HOMES
'UNACCEPTABLE'**

Action against Medical Accidents (AvMA) – the charity for patient safety & justice – is calling for action to address the alarming rate of medication errors in nursing homes revealed in research published today in *Quality & Safety in Healthcare*. The research found that 7 out of 10 nursing home residents were exposed to medication errors..

AvMA chief executive Peter Walsh said:

“This research confirms what we have believed for a long time – that there is a large and mainly unreported rate of medication error in nursing homes causing unnecessary complications, and in some cases, death. Nursing home care has not been given the priority it warrants when it comes to patient safety. We believe this is connected with the fact that nursing homes care in the main with elderly, frail people. Older people do not get the attention they deserve when it comes to safety, and frankly, this is unacceptable”.

AvMA are calling for tighter regulation of nursing homes and in particular for

- regular reviews of each patient/resident’s medication by a doctor
- more training and adequate staffing for nursing homes, including GP/ pharmacist input
- nursing homes to be part of the national system for reporting and learning from patient safety incidents.

ENDS