



# Preventing Infection in Care Homes – Medication Pots

## What does single- use mean?

**DO NOT REUSE.** A single-use device is used on an individual patient during a single procedure and then discarded. It is not intended to be used again, even on the same patient.

### Single Use Paper Pots



### Single Use Plastic Pot



### Single Use Plastic Spoon



## How do I know if a device is for single-use?

Any device designated as single use only should **NEVER** be reused under any circumstances and should be disposed of safely once used. The symbol on the right indicates 'do not reuse' and may replace any wording. It is usually located on the base of the pot. Refer to manufacturer guidance for expiry date as this can vary between suppliers.



## Why shouldn't they be reused?

- Potential for cross-infection
- Inability to clean and decontaminate
- Residues from chemical decontamination agents
- Material alteration & failure

## Re-usable pots

Re-usable medicine pots can be used again **(They will not have the above symbol at the base of the pot)** following advice below

- They should be decontaminated and dried after each use. This would preferably be undertaken using the dishwasher, but can be carried out manually with washing up liquid and hot water.
- Medicine pots must be dried immediately after cleaning, and must not be stored wet or damp. Paper towels can be used for this purpose, but not a fabric towel.
- After cleaning and drying, the medicine pots must be stored in a clean cupboard.



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