

Position Statement: Provision of seven day prescriptions and monitored dosage systems

Castle Point and Rochford (CPR) and Southend Clinical Commissioning Groups (SCCG) do not support the provision of seven day prescriptions for the sole purpose of funding or supporting monitored dosage systems (MDS).

The Decision to Dispense into MDS

The decision to dispense into a MDS is that of the community pharmacist. If a community pharmacist is concerned regarding a patient's ability to adhere to a regime or if they receive a request to dispense into MDS from a patient, carer or general practitioner (GP) they are expected to consider the options using a patient centred approach. This approach should include reference to the Equality Act 2010 which is in place to ensure that persons with a disability are not at a disadvantage in accessing pharmacy services. The community pharmacist is responsible for assessing patients' eligibility under EA and, if applicable, are obligated to make "reasonable adjustments". MDS are one of these reasonable adjustments *however* they should not be regarded as a universal solution. Other compliance supports such as easy open containers, dexterity aids, reminder charts, large print labels, IT solutions, patient counselling or simplifying the regime are all options to be considered as **MDS may or may not be appropriate or the most beneficial for the patient.**

Community pharmacies receive national funding within the community pharmacy contract to remunerate these reasonable adjustments under the EA.

MDS for Convenience

Community pharmacists are often requested to dispense into a MDS from family members, carers and social care agencies for the purposes of convenience. If a patient does not fulfil the EA criteria the pharmacist is not obligated to provide MDS as it is not considered a reasonable adjustment.

For patients who fall outside of the EA criteria any additional provisions would either be provided free of charge or within a private agreement with the community pharmacy for this non-NHS contracted service.

The Decision to issue 7 Day Prescriptions

A prescriber has the autonomy to amend the treatment period of a prescription due to an unstable medical condition or to reduce risk if safety concerns are raised. There is no link between the treatment duration and dispensing into MDS; a 28 day prescription can be packaged as a MDS and a 7 day prescription can be dispensed in original packs. Therefore **community pharmacists should not request alterations to prescription durations such as requests for 7 day prescriptions.**

Prescribers who have historically provided 7 day prescriptions to support MDS should review this in line with this guidance as well as that provided by the PSNC and RPS. This should be done in collaboration with community pharmacists to avoid adverse impact on patients.

For full information on the role of community pharmacy under the EA refer to the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee and Royal Pharmaceutical Society Website.

Title	Provision of seven day prescriptions and monitored dosage systems
Approved for use in CPR & SCCGs	Drugs&Therapeutics Committee 5/9/18
References	PSNC, and The Equality Act 2010 The better use of multi-compartment compliance aids RPS July 2013