



Policy for '7 day' Prescriptions

Background

- GPs do not need to provide 7 day prescriptions routinely for patients who receive their medicines via a monitored dosage system (MDS) or a compliance aid.
- 7 day prescriptions are only needed for patients who need their medicine supplying weekly for clinical and safety reasons. It is not relevant whether the medicine is supplied in an MDS or not.
- 7 day prescriptions generally increase workload for GP surgeries.
- Patients who are currently receiving 7 day prescriptions should be reviewed to determine whether 7 day prescriptions are appropriate.

When are 7 day prescriptions appropriate?

1. For patients who are considered to be at risk of medication overuse and it is not safe to provide them with longer than 7 days supply.
2. For patients whose condition is unstable and requires frequent dose changes and/or treatment monitoring.
3. For patients who are not compliant with medication when it is dispensed as a 28 day supply and it has been demonstrated that 7 day prescribing improves compliance.
4. If a patient is confused by a recent change in medication; supplying a 7 day prescription might be suitable for a short period.
5. Following GP's authorisation, if advised by the community pharmacist, after assessing the patient, that on-going weekly supplies is required based on clinical needs and discussed the matter directly with the prescribing GP.

NB If post-dated 7 day prescriptions are provided, the pharmacy must follow the prescribed directions and only supply medicines to the patient at each corresponding week, NOT as a month's supply all at once.

When are 7 day prescriptions NOT appropriate?

1. When the patient does NOT meet the above criteria.
2. The NHS Terms of Service do not impose a requirement for pharmacy contractors to dispense into compliance aids or to dispense in instalments (other than instalment prescriptions for the treatment of substance misusers). It is for the pharmacy contractor to decide whether it is appropriate to dispense into a compliance aid. If a prescription for 28 days' treatment is issued for a patient who satisfies the Equality Act 2010 criteria, and the pharmacy contractor decides that the adjustment required is a compliance aid, then 4 x 7 day compliance aids or 1 x 28 day compliance aid should be prepared on one occasion.
3. Patients in care homes, or supported at home by a domiciliary care worker; as use of MDS in a home is a private arrangement agreed with the pharmacy and will not prompt a request for a 7 day prescription.