

Manchester CCGs 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 increase workload for GP surgeries, unless the NHS electronic repeat dispensing service is used for stable patients.
- 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. If a patient qualifies for help under the Equality Act 2010 and the pharmacy assessment shows that a compliance aid is the most appropriate adjustment, then this can and should be issued from a 28 day prescription.
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.
4. If the GP decides to stop it following clinical assessment. This decision should be communicated to patient/carer and the community pharmacy.

Any queries can be directed to the Manchester CCGs Medicines Optimisation Team.