

Medicines Optimisation Position Statement

Position Statement	Requests for 7-day Prescriptions for Patients on Domiciliary Monitored Dosage Systems (DMDS)
Position Statement number	008 (2018)
Approved by Clinical Executive:	May 2018
Date of issue:	May 2018
Date of last review:	
Date of planned review:	January 2020 (Unless new published evidence becomes available before this date OR there is new published national guidance)

The appropriate duration of any prescription should be decided by the prescriber, in conjunction with the patient, taking into account the medicine being prescribed, its monitoring requirements, the condition being treated and the individual patient's needs. As such, 7-day prescriptions should only be issued when a patient has a clinical need for their medication to be supplied on a weekly basis eg, risk of overdose, close monitoring required etc

The Equality Act 2010 sets out a framework which requires providers of goods and services, not to discriminate against persons with a disability. The legislation does not require a formal assessment to be carried out, only that a reasonable adjustment is made to help a disabled person overcome the obstacles to the use of the service.

With respect to access to medicines these may include using easy opening tops, reminder charts, large print labels, braille typed labels as well as DMDS. Under the pharmacy contract funding arrangements, where a patient has been assessed under the Equality Act and a DMDS is appropriate, provision for funding is already available as part of the pharmacy contractual Practice Payment. Seven day scripts are not required for these patients to receive an DMDS.

If a patient or carer requests a DMDS but they do not fall into the criteria under the Equality Act the pharmacist can either offer this non contracted service for free or negotiate 7 days prescriptions with the GP after discussing likely improvement in compliance/ safety.

In summary there is no requirement for a patient to be issued with 7 day prescriptions solely on the basis of DMDS use (unless the patient requires weekly supplies for other relevant reasons eg, risk of over dose etc).

References

1. Improving patient outcomes – the better use of multi-compartment compliance aids <http://www.rpharms.com/support-pdfs/rps-mca-july-2013.pdf>
2. Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995; Equality Act 2010; and Multi-compartment compliance aids http://archive.psn.org.uk/data/files/Regulation/DDA/Disability_Discrimination_and_MDS_briefing_October_2011.pdf

Further information

Prescribing in association with multi-compliance aids can be found at: <https://psnc.org.uk/contract-it/pharmacy-regulation/dda/>