

7 Day Prescriptions: Guidance for Prescribers

January 2020



Prescribers are reminded that they do **NOT** need to routinely issue 7 day prescriptions for patients whose medication is dispensed in a monitored dosage system (MDS), unless the **clinician** determines that there is a **clinical need**. Examples where a 7 day prescription may be deemed appropriate include:

- Regular review and change of medication.
- Safety reasons including risk of self-harm, confusion and misuse.

The requirement and reason for 7 day prescriptions should be clearly documented by the clinician following an assessment.

Some GPs have been asked to issue 7-day prescriptions to ensure that pharmacies receive dispensing fees to help cover the cost of their professional time in supplying monitored dosage systems. **Nationally, this practice has been deemed inappropriate.**

Where concerns arise regarding a patient's capability to administer their own medication, it is the **supplying pharmacist's responsibility to clinically assess the patient and their needs in accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)**. The provision of a "reasonable adjustment" to support the patient with their medication is based on the clinical judgment of the assessing pharmacist and *may* include the provision of a MDS. **Provision for this service is accounted for within the contract for community pharmacy.**

Furthermore, where there is a request for a compliance aid but the requirements of the DDA are not met, the supplying pharmacy may wish to enter into a private agreement and, as such, **should not** request 7-day prescriptions from the prescriber to cover the costs involved.

Prescribers should review all their patients currently receiving 7-day prescriptions and make sure that 7-day prescribing is clinically appropriate.

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For further information, please contact the Medicines Management Team on
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