

Good Practice Guidance: 7 versus 28-day dispensing for Monitored Dosage System (MDS)/Multi-compartment compliance aid (MCA)

The guidance aims to indicate the appropriateness of prescriptions for the dispensing options in light of current practice.

7-day prescriptions:

There are a small number of patients who satisfy the eligibility criteria for the supply of an MDS/MCA tray under the Equality Act 2010, and the national NHS community pharmacy funding contains a contribution towards the provision of such auxiliary aids.

If it is clinically appropriate for a patient to receive a 7-day supply of their medicines because their treatment may need regular review and/or frequent changes, then a 7-day prescribing interval may be written and the pharmacy will provide a 7-day supply of the medicines to the patient.

Pharmacists may discuss 7-day prescriptions with prescribers if they have decided to provide medicines in MDS/MCA trays, because of the dangers of wastage if treatment changes.

Pharmacists should note the possibility of dose changes via this modality and ensure a mechanism is in place to accuracy check before dispensing and issuing subsequent weeks scripts. See overleaf for Good Practice Guidance for use of repeat dispensing with EPS2 (adapted from NHS West Sussex CCGs and West Sussex LPC).

28-day prescriptions:

Where clinical need or wastage does not require 7-day prescriptions, a 28-day prescription can be issued for the small number of patients who satisfy the eligibility criteria for the supply of an MDS/MCA tray under the Equality Act 2010, and the national NHS community pharmacy funding contains a contribution towards the provision of such auxiliary aids.

Reference:

The community pharmacy: A guide for general practitioners and practice staff. July 2013. Developed jointly by the NHS Employers organisation, the British Medical Association's General Practitioners Committee (GPC) and the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC).

Good Practice Guidance: 7-day repeat dispensing with EPS2

The guidance relates to pharmacies receiving four (or more), 7-day interval electronic repeat dispensing prescriptions in a batch, and is intended to support:

- Efficient preparation of medication for batch prescription issues (Repeat Dispensing)
- Accurate prescription status information on the Spine, allowing for cancellation due to medication changes mid repeat dispensing cycle.

The recommended process is as follows:

1. Download the first issue from EPS2 as normal.
2. Reprint the first issue for each week's medication being prepared, including the first week. If four weeks are being prepared print four copies. Retain a copy of the first weeks token in a paper folder and use to manually track dispensing of subsequent issues.
3. Prepare the medication and accuracy check for each reprinted dispensing token
4. Once the first issue has been dispensed to the patient, send a **dispense notification** via EPS2.
5. The second issue will download automatically once the **dispense notification** has been sent for week one.
6. Clinical check the second week's prepared medication against the second issue of the prescription, to ensure no cancellation messages have been received and securely dispose of reprint of week one dispensing token
7. Once the medication is handed to the patient send the **dispense notification** for the second issue.
8. Continue as above until the whole batch has been dispensed.

Since all instalments of an electronic repeat dispense prescription are identical, it is acceptable to prepare (but not dispense to the patient) medication from the first issue, each subsequent issue will be a direct copy. By sending the dispense notification only when the medication is dispensed to the patient, if a prescriber attempts to cancel a prescription or item, they will receive the correct messages in response.

Guidance adopted from approved NHS West Sussex Clinical Commissioning Groups / Brighton & Hove CCG/ NHS West Sussex CCGs and West Sussex LPC documents