FAQs - writing 7 day prescriptions for Blister Pack Patients

Why should the practice fund pharmacy for extra items when I write a 7 day prescription?

Funding for dispensing the prescription (item fees) sits with NHS England and does NOT come out of the CCG prescribing budget.

How are Pharmacies paid for the additional work?

The pharmacy receives a flat dispensing fee for dispensing each item, whether or not it is packed in a blister. The Disability Discrimination Act allows/requires a pharmacist to assess a patient with special needs to determine whether they require reasonable adjustments to the medicines supply.

What are the disadvantages of writing a 28 day prescription for a blister pack patient?

1. **Waste** – if the medicines are changed in any way during the 28 day period new prescriptions need to be written for all items – medicines cannot be repackaged.
2. **Admin time** – production of new prescriptions and co-ordinating patient/ pharmacist requests
3. Some drugs are unstable if removed from their original packaging for more than 7 days.
4. Patients with a higher number of Rx items (>4) are more likely to require frequent changes of medication

How could writing 28 day Rx's affect the patient?

1. The patient would be delivered all 4 blister packs at once (a legal requirement), rather than weekly deliveries, which could cause confusion for an elderly/special needs patient.
2. if changes occur during this time the patient would need to be delivered 4 more new ones

How can I decrease admin time & still ensure patients get weekly deliveries rather than once a month delivery?

(1) Use the repeat dispensing prescription service (RA/RD) where the GP needs to sign only one Rx (RA form) and these can be done in batches of 4 – 6 weeks at a time. For further information speak to a member of the medicines management team at the CCG

What are the benefits of supplying 7 day prescriptions for patients?

1. This type of supply can make a very real difference for many patients and that is the prime reason why pharmacies are willing to do them.
2. Helps to improve patient compliance hence reducing hospital admissions