



integrated working

Policy on 7 Day Prescribing

A 28 day prescribing interval is appropriate for most patients and is recommended in West Suffolk¹. Each prescription ordering treatment for 28 days should be dispensed on one occasion. 7 day prescriptions should not be provided for patients who use a compliance aid, unless one of the circumstances listed below applies.

7 day prescribing is ONLY supported for repeat prescriptions in the following circumstances

- Instalment prescriptions for substance misusers.
- Prescriptions for vulnerable patients where there is a risk of self-harm (deliberate or accidental) with larger quantities of medicines.
- Prescriptions for patients whose treatment regime is not stable and where frequent medication changes are anticipated.

Compliance aids

The NHS Terms of Service do not impose a requirement for pharmacy contractors to dispense into compliance aids or to dispense in instalments (other than instalment prescriptions for the treatment of substance misusers). It is for the pharmacy contractor to decide whether it is appropriate to dispense into a compliance aid. If a prescription for 28 days' treatment is issued for a patient who satisfies the Equality Act 2010 criteria, and the pharmacy contractor decides that the adjustment required is a compliance aid, then 4 x 7 day compliance aids or 1 x 28 day compliance aid should be prepared on one occasion.²

4 x 7 day prescriptions should NOT be provided even if the patient does satisfy the criteria for a compliance aid.

Prescribers should not ask pharmacy contractors to dispense medicines in compliance aids for patients who are not entitled to this support under the Equality Act. Entitlement under the Equality Act would be assessed by the pharmacy contractor. There is no locally commissioned service to cover such activity.

References

¹ Prescribing Interval – Guidance for Patients <https://www.westsuffolkccg.nhs.uk/clinical-area/prescribing-and-medicines-management/formularies-and-guidelines/>

² Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee - Equality Act 2010 and 28 Day Prescribing <http://psnc.org.uk/contract-it/pharmacy-regulation/dda/the-equality-act-2010-28-day-prescribing/>