

Medicine Record Charts for Carers Service – Enhanced Service

Guidance for Pharmacists for Covid-19

Due to Covid-19, there may be situations where medication is prescribed and dispensed at a different time to regular prescription items and the carer is unable to or it is inappropriate for them to return the chart to the pharmacy to have additional medication labels added.

You will be aware that the service specification states:

'If medication is prescribed at a different time to regular prescriptions then the Medicines Record Chart should be returned to the pharmacy for labels to be attached.

Where possible there should be only one Medicine Record Chart in use at any one time. The exception to this may include the prescribing of 'just in case' medications.

Where you need to vary from this guidance, this must be risk assessed and only done in exceptional circumstance.'

During the Covid-19 pandemic, we would advise the pharmacist to risk assess each situation individually and decide if it is appropriate to supply an additional Medicine Record Chart if the original chart cannot be returned to the pharmacy.

Points you may wish to considered:

- Is the prescription for an acute item e.g. Antibiotic?
- Is there a risk of the additional chart becoming separated from the original chart resulting in only one chart being followed and the other chart overlooked resulting in non-administration of medications.
- What are the risks of not supplying a chart e.g. patient is not given the medication?
- Is there a risk that items could be duplicated on separate charts and the patient is given a double dose?
- Has another chart already been supplied by a different pharmacy (resulting in several charts being in use!)?
- Has an item on another chart been stopped?
- Can consent be obtained to allow access to view the patients SCR (or consider emergency access to SCR as appropriate): this could be essential if you are supplying medication and a chart to a patient you do not usually dispense and supply medication to?

If after appropriate consideration of risks, a separate MAR chart is supplied, please clearly annotate the additional chart in a way which cannot be missed, to indicate there is more than one chart in use.

Please Note: On no account is it acceptable to issue a carer/representative with spare dispensing labels to stick on an existing medicine record chart

You may wish to refer to the joint statement published by the GPhC:

<https://www.pharmacyregulation.org/news/how-we-will-continue-regulate-light-novel-coronavirus-covid-19>

For more information on the Medicine Record Charts for Carers Service please see:

Hull: <http://communitypharmacyhumber.co.uk/services-by-area/hull/mrc-hull/>

East Riding: <http://communitypharmacyhumber.co.uk/services-by-area/east-riding-of-yorkshire/dommar-er/>