

The Association of Greater Manchester LMCs

Guidance for 7 day prescriptions

Introduction

The treatment length of a prescription simply determines how often a patient receives their medication. It is irrelevant to the manner in which it is dispensed.

7 day prescriptions are for patients who need their medicine supplying weekly for clinical and safety reasons. GPs do not need to routinely provide 7 day prescriptions for patients who receive their medication in a compliance aid. 7 day prescriptions have the potential to increase workload for GP practices, unless electronic prescribing is undertaken via the Repeat Dispensing mechanism.

When are 7 day prescriptions appropriate?

7 day prescriptions are often appropriate for patients who:

- Frequently require a change in medication, to reduce the risk of waste
- Are undergoing a period of titration or review of treatment
- Are considered to be at risk of medication overuse (e.g. due to self-harm or confusion) and it is not safe to provide them with longer than 7 days' supply (particularly controlled drugs) or there are stability issues.
- Has a documented clinical need (by the prescriber)

If 7 day prescriptions (or shorter) are considered a clinical requirement by the prescriber, they should be supplied weekly (or the prescribed interval) to the patient by the community pharmacy. Practices should be notified of any patients not routinely collecting.

When are 7 day prescriptions not appropriate?

28 day prescriptions are appropriate for the majority of patients who are stable and for whom there are no safety concerns.

7 day prescriptions should not be used:

- When the above circumstances are not met
- If the GP deems it unnecessary
- Simply to support the provision of a compliance aid
- Simply because the patient is resident in a care home or has a domiciliary care worker

*If a 28 day prescription (or longer) is issued and dispensed in a compliance aid, any changes made that month will require the **entire prescription to be re issued and re dispensed**. If a patient qualifies for help under the Equality Act 2010 and the pharmacy or prescriber assessment shows that a compliance aid is the most appropriate adjustment for how a prescription is dispensed, then this can and should be issued from a 28 day prescription.*