

Prescribing and Medicines Optimisation Guidance (4)

Tuesday 31st March 2020

Electronic repeat dispensing – an update

The NHSBSA will be highlighting those patients who could be appropriate for eRD. The aim is to provide GP practices with the NHS numbers of patients who have had the same medicines dispensed (with no changes) for the previous 12 months. AHSN have compiled the slide pack below to guide practices through this process.



eRD in response to
Covid 19 March 2020

The main priority is to ensure that patients are part of the electronic prescribing service (EPS). Once this has been achieved, practices could consider transferring any suitable patients to eRD. Please follow the guidance around this that was previously issued and ask for clarification from your Medicines Optimisation Team if unsure.

It is very important that the eRD prescription is post-dated to when the patient's last issue is due to run out, so that the workload is spread out, rather than all eRD prescriptions arriving at the pharmacy on the day they are changed over.

Medication quantities should be standardised to equal a 28 day supply (or 56 days where applicable) and duration needs to be synchronised so each repeat item has the same duration i.e. 13 x 28 issues for a year's supply.

Exclusion criteria – The following medicines are NOT suitable or eligible for eRD

- Controlled drugs (including temazepam and tramadol).
- Benzodiazepines.
- Hypnotics.
- Drugs which require close and careful monitoring e.g. methotrexate.
- Unlicensed medicines

Increased awareness around Controlled Drugs

Communication from NHS England and Improvement has highlighted some potential problems with controlled drugs.

The National Crime Agency has received anecdotal reports of soaring wholesale illicit drug prices, due to global supply and demand problems. With County Lines disruption, GP surgeries, as well as hospitals and pharmacies, could be at significant risk of being targeted for thefts due to these shortages. Please ensure any controlled drugs stored on the premises are kept locked in CD cabinets and all available security is implemented.

With regard to prescribing, remain vigilant for inappropriate prescription requests and potential diversion. It is particularly anticipated that benzodiazepines will be targeted, although all controlled drugs are at risk.

Please feedback any information regarding concerns to your local Police Controlled Drugs Liaison Officer via 101.

To maintain the supply chain do NOT over order any medicines

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Wessex Local Medical Committee letter

Provides information around liaison with community pharmacies, especially with regard to the following points:

- Community Pharmacy core hours will be 10am-12 and 2-4pm. Opening outside these hours will vary from pharmacy to pharmacy. They are able to shut for up to 2½ hours within the day to enable essential tasks to be carried out that cannot be done with members of the public on the premises.
- Reiteration of the advice not to change prescription quantities.
- Where patients are unable to collect their medicines, they should contact the pharmacy to make other arrangements. Medicines will not automatically be delivered.
- Arrangements if either a GP surgery or Community Pharmacy has to close completely.

Patients need to be reminded to order medication in good time and allow more time for medication collection and note the adherence to social distancing when collecting.

NB: There is an error in the contact details. The email address for the LPC Chief Officer should read: deborah.crockford@cpsc.org.uk



LPC-Letter-HIOW
(1).PDF (3).pdf

Medicines Advice Service based at UHS (SMAS)

In line with government and trust guidance, SMAS staff are now temporarily delivering the service via home working. Phone lines have been diverted to a voicemail instructing callers to contact the team via a dedicated mobile number;

07976 189315

Currently the service is open between 9am and 6:30pm Monday to Friday.

If you do have any problems getting through to the service, contact your Medicines Optimisation Team who will be able to raise the issue with SMAS.

To maintain the supply chain do NOT over order any medicines