

Interim Guidance for Multicompartmental Aids (MCAs)/Dosette Boxes

Community pharmacies nationally are reviewing the provision of Multicompartmental Aids (MCAs)/ dosette boxes.

This may lead to queries and concerns being raised by patients.

Community pharmacies are under no contractual obligation to supply dosette boxes and evidence suggests they are not always the best solution to support patients to take their medication appropriately. ^(1, 2) A community pharmacist may decide that an MCA/Dosette box is deemed most suitable as a 'reasonable adjustment' under the Equality act 2010, but this may not always be the only option. Any intervention to support concordance must be assessed as being appropriate to meet the individual patient's needs.

Currently, guidelines across Kent and Medway recommend that a 28-day prescription should be issued for all patients with stable medication unless there is a clinical reason for limiting supply to 7 days (established after an assessment).

However, practices should not supply 7-day prescriptions for the sole purpose of funding/supporting MCA/dosette box supply.

Examples of where seven-day prescriptions may be suitable include:

- Patients with unstable conditions whose medication regimen is likely to change on a frequent basis, or,
- Safety concerns about supplying more than 7 days at a time where there is a risk of overdose or misuse to the patient or others if too much medication is stored at home.
- When the stability of a medicine in an MCA means that the MCA needs to be made up and collected each week.

For patients who fall outside of the Equality Act assessment criteria, or for situations where patients/carers/relatives request the medication in dosette boxes, this would be classed as a private agreement and pharmacies are entitled to charge for this non-NHS contracted service.

As many patients will be used to the current arrangements and any potential changes may cause some patients some concern, The Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC), Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Community Services are working on a formal NHS Kent and Medway positional statement.

For any queries on this then please contact the medicines optimisation team: kmicb.medicinesoptimisation@nhs.net

References:

1. [Multi-compartment compliance aids \(MCAs\) in adult social care - Care Quality Commission \(cqc.org.uk\)](#) CQC access July 2022
2. <https://www.rpharms.com/Portals/0/RPS%20document%20library/Open%20access/Support/toolkit/rps-mca-july-2013.pdf> (accessed July 2022)
3. <http://www.eepru.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/eepru-report-medication-error-feb-2018.pdf> (accessed July 2022)
4. <https://www.npa.co.uk/services-and-support/patientsafety> (accessed February 2019)
5. Bhattacharya D, Salter C, Aldus C et al. Do not initiate medication organisation devices without prior detailed medication review and vigilant monitoring. BMJ 2014. Response to: Does home-based medication review keep older people out of hospital? The HOMER randomised controlled trial. BMJ 2005;330:293. doi: 10.1136/bmj.38338.674583.AE
6. <http://www.ahsn-nenc.org.uk/medicines-adherence-support-project/> (accessed July 2022)