

Length of repeat prescription supply

Thurrock CCG and Basildon and Brentwood CCG do not enforce a 28 day prescribing policy for repeat medication. However, it is recommended that the usual length of repeat prescription supply should not routinely be more than 28 days in line with best practice. This may be increased up to a maximum of 56 days at the discretion of the prescriber. However, the Medicines Management Team encourages 28 day prescribing as the most appropriate prescribing period for the majority of patients. The Department of Health also advises that controlled drugs (schedule 2, 3 and 4) should be prescribed for no longer than intervals of 30 days.

The aim of this policy is to help minimise medicines wastage, and where possible reduce harm from stockpiled medicines and improve compliance with medication regimes. 56 day intervals may be suitable for some patients, dependent on individual circumstances or for financial considerations if they pay for prescriptions, however, this should be individualised and only be agreed when the risks of medication changing are low.

Practices should have robust repeat prescribing policy in place, and it is recommended that practices incorporate information regarding length of repeat prescription supply into their practice prescribing policy.

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