

## Prescribing of 7 day prescriptions

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. 7 day prescriptions **should only be** issued for:

- 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.

**GPs should not supply 7 day prescriptions** for the sole purpose of funding/supporting dosette box supply via a community pharmacy.

Dosette boxes may improve medication compliance, but the evidence for benefit is limited. When medicines are repackaged into dosette boxes or other devices the manufacturer is no longer liable for the stability of the product and accountability transfers to the prescriber and dispenser. In addition a number of other aids to patient compliance are available, and may be more suitable than dosette boxes.

National funding for dosette boxes is provided within the community pharmacy contract for patients that comply under the Equality Act 2010. The pharmacist is ultimately responsible for assessing the patient's eligibility, and if the patient fulfils the criteria the pharmacist is also responsible for determining what level of compliance support is required.

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 a private agreement and pharmacies may either provide this service free of charge, or they are entitled to charge for this non-NHS contracted service.

**Policy Statement: GPs should not supply 7 day prescriptions** for the sole purpose of funding/supporting dosette box supply via a community pharmacy.

Providers commissioned to provide services on behalf of Thurrock CCG and Basildon and Brentwood CCG are reminded that they are required to follow the local joint formulary and prescribing guidance, or relevant Medicines Management agreement.

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