

South Staffordshire Area Prescribing Group

Seven Day Prescription Joint Statement

Position statement on seven-day prescription , approved by South Staffordshire APG,
South Staffordshire LPC, South Staffordshire LMC

South Staffordshire Area Prescribing Group (APG) - Seven-day prescription statement

There has been some confusion about the issuing of 7 day scripts for patients who receive their medicines in a compliance aid (packed by the pharmacist). We would like you to bear the following guidance in mind when considering how to deal with requests for 7 days prescriptions and monitored dosage system (MDS) packaging for patients.

As an APG we are happy to encourage GPs to write 7 day scripts but only where it is considered that a patient would be at risk of inappropriate medicine taking behaviour if their medicine was supplied in any larger quantity than 7 days at a time. Seven day prescriptions should not be used purely as a mechanism to fund the packaging of medicines into a monitored dosage container, however if there is a patient safety reason which will be resolved by only issuing 7 days' worth of medicines at a time, then writing a prescriptions for 7 days supply is a valuable service.

So, for example, if a carer requests that you package a patient's medicine in a monitored dosage container, but during an assessment of that patient's needs you can see no valid reason for the request other than carer convenience, then it would not be appropriate to issue a 7 day prescription.

However, if a patient is obviously having trouble coping with their medication regimen and is at risk of mis-administering their medication and it is considered that having more than 7 days supply of medicines in the home would compound the problem, then it is relevant to request 7 day scripts from their GP.

Furthermore, 7 day prescriptions should not be issued if a formal carer (defined as: someone who is paid to provide care for another person, maybe through Social Services or through one of the other care provider agencies), such as an employee in a care home or someone providing care in a patient's home are administering the medication to the patient. In these circumstances pharmacists could make the 'reasonable adjustment' to their service and provide a free Medicine Administration Recording chart (MAR chart) if they feel that will support the administration process. If the carer insists on an MDS then the pharmacist can ask them to fund the device or they may choose to offer the carer the service for free, but they should not use the 7 day prescription service to fund this activity.

The final issue to be considered is the stability of the medication that is re-packaged into an MDS container. Before making the final decision to re-package please consider the advice on the following site which highlights which medication is contra-indicated to re-packing into MDS due to stability issues.

<http://www.ukmi.nhs.uk/applications/mca/>

If, having assessed a patient's needs pharmacists do consider that no more than 7 days supply of the medicine at any one time is appropriate for the patient, then please use the attached form to make the request to the GP for 7 day scripts. The form has been supported by the LMC and GPs have been informed by the APG newsletter making them aware that they should only supply 7 day scripts for new

patients if the pharmacist requests it using this form (forms are freely available on the LPC www site: <http://www.southstaffslpc.co.uk/>)

Therefore, in summary, if there is no risk of harm to the patient by having more than 7 days' supply of medicines available at one time, pharmacist are free to do so, but funding for this should not be from 7 day prescriptions. This can however be funded by:

1. Asking the patient or carer to fund the supply themselves
2. Funding the supply yourself (i.e. pharmacy) as a service to patients and their carers
3. Through a commissioned local enhanced service (none are currently available in South Stafford Clinical Commissioning Groups)

We would be grateful if you would bear this advice in mind when you receive requests from your patients and their carers to package medication into compliance aids rather than dispense in original packs.

This policy has the support of the South Staffordshire LMC and South Staffordshire LPC. Thank-you for your co-operation.

Request for Weekly (7 day) Prescriptions from GPs or Independent Prescribers

To be used by requesting Pharmacist

Dear Prescriber

I have assessed the following patient under the Equality Act 2010¹ Regulations and believe that they require their medicines to be supplied every 7 days to reduce the potential for inappropriate medicine taking.

Name of Patient.....Date of birth.....

Name of GP.....

Patient’s address.....

.....Post Code.....

Following my assessment I shall be providing the following support (please tick all appropriate)

A supply of medicines every 7 days	
Medicines packaged in a compliance aid	
Big print labels	
Non-child resistant containers	
Medicine administration chart	
Home delivery service	
Repeat ordering system	
Other (please give details)	

I would like to request that you provide 7 day prescriptions for this patient because
.....
.....

I confirm that I will only be issuing one week’s supply of medicines, at weekly intervals for this patient

Pharmacist’s signature.....Name of pharmacist.....

Pharmacy address.....
.....

Pharmacy telephone number.....Fax number.....

Please send this completed form to the patient’s GP

¹<http://psnc.org.uk/contract-it/pharmacy-regulation/dda/>