

Our ref: JD/JH

All GP Practice Managers, Devon PCT
All Community Pharmacies, Devon PCT
All Superintendent Pharmacists – see
distribution list

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10th November 2008

Dear Colleague

Re: Repeat dispensing – Devon PCT position statement

Devon PCT has been made aware of repeat prescription management schemes that are being promoted by some pharmacies, which involve the requesting of repeat medication on behalf of patients, with their consent. The Devon Prescribing Task Group and LPC Multiples Group have agreed that a PCT position statement should be issued, which has been agreed jointly by the PCT, LMC and LPC.

Some community pharmacies are now offering repeat prescription management schemes, which require patients to sign up to community pharmacy led schemes. These schemes promote the retention of the repeat medication slip by the community pharmacy at the time of dispensing a prescription, when a Medicines Use Review may or may not be carried out with the patient. Further supplies of repeat medication are then ordered in advance of the next supply, without a patient concordance check at the time of reordering.

As you will be aware, the NHS has supported the development of a national repeat dispensing scheme, which is available to all practices who are able to install repeat dispensing software on their clinical system. Using repeat dispensing, practitioners are able to generate a 'repeat authorisation' prescription, with a number of 'batch' prescriptions, allowing repeat dispensing over a defined period of time for a defined number of repeats.

NHS repeat dispensing can be used to improve patient care, reduce unnecessary repeat dispensing workload within General Practice and reduce avoidable medicines waste. Medicines waste accounts for approximately 10% of any prescribing budget. The primary care prescribing budget in Devon PCT is currently just over £108million, which equates to approximately £10.8million as medicines waste.

The uptake of NHS repeat dispensing varies widely across Devon PCT, with some practices issuing up to 60% of scripts via repeat dispensing, with others issuing minimal numbers or none at all. Uptake of repeat dispensing by general practices across Devon PCT is being sent to general practices only with this letter. There are opportunities to improve the uptake, which we aim to facilitate, as detailed below. As a starting point, practices may wish to share the charts with their local pharmacy / pharmacies to consider how uptake of repeat dispensing may be improved.

Practitioners are reminded that repeat dispensing is particularly suitable for:

- Patients stabilised on one or more medicines
- Patients who use one pharmacy to have their medication dispensed

Repeat dispensing is NOT SUITABLE for:

- Patients whose medicines are likely to be altered within the period covered by the prescription issued
- Most 'as required' medication
- Schedule 2 and 3 controlled drugs

As already emphasised, NHS repeat dispensing reduces GP workload, saves time and streamlines processes in general practice and pharmacies plus it allows GPs and pharmacists to work more closely together. The patient receives more support with their medicine taking and concordance, giving them the opportunity to discuss any problems with the pharmacist, who will address concordance issues and can feedback to the GP / prescriber. The patient also benefits by a reduction in the number of visits made to the general practice purely to order repeat medication. There are also opportunities for feedback to be provided by pharmacists to inform practices when patients medication has not been collected.

In order to support practices and pharmacists that wish to implement repeat dispensing under the NHS repeat dispensing scheme, the LPC are willing to offer lunchtime sessions to facilitate uptake. The PCT is willing to consider applications by pharmacy contractors who wish to close for a short period of time in order to meet with their local practice/s to improve the uptake of repeat dispensing, thereby promoting joint working. For further information, please contact Jonathan Kerr, at Devon LPC on 01392 834022 or via email: jonathan@devonlpc.org. Applications to close a pharmacy over a lunchtime period should be addressed to Sharon Hibbert (email: sharon.hibbert@nhs.net or tel: 01392 267673) or Andrew Harris (email: andrewj.harris@nhs.net or tel: 01392 267744) or to the above address (c/o The Primary Care Team).

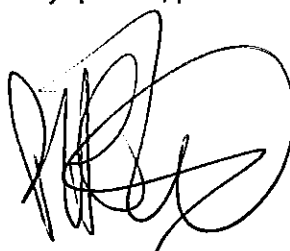
In summary, neither Devon PCT or Devon LMC support community pharmacy led repeat prescription management schemes. All three organisations support NHS repeat dispensing where appropriate.

We trust this is helpful. If you do have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

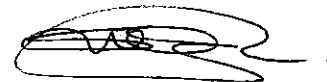
Yours sincerely



Joy Davey
AD Medicines Management
Devon PCT



Dr Peter Jolliffe
Chief Officer
Devon LMC



Sue Taylor
Chief Officer
Devon LPC

Distribution List

- **All GP practice managers, Devon PCT**
- **All community pharmacies, Devon PCT**
- **Superintendent pharmacists:**

Alliance Boots

The Superintendent Pharmacist, Boots UK Ltd, D90 Building, 1 Thane Road, Nottingham, NG90 1BS

ASDA

Mr John Evans, Superintendent Pharmacist, Asda Group plc, Asda House, Southbank, Great Wilson Street, Leeds, LS11 5AD

Co-operative Pharmacy

Ms M E Colling, Superintendent Pharmacist, Co-operative Pharmacy Ltd, 1st Floor, Sandbrook Park, Sandbrook Way, Rochdale, OL11 1RY

Day Lewis Pharmacy

Mr Peter Glover, Superintendent Pharmacist, Day Lewis Pharmacy, 2 Peterwood Way, Croydon, CR0 4UQ

Lloyds Pharmacy

Mr Nick Mortimer, Superintendent Pharmacist, Lloyds Pharmacy, 1 Sapphire Court, Walsgrave Business Park, Coventry Walsgrave Triangle, Coventry, CV2 2TX

Morrisons

Mr Bruce Pinlott, Pharmacy General Manager, Wm Morrison Supermarkets plc, Hilmore House, Gain Lane, Bradford, BD3 7DL

J Sainsbury

Mr Chris Perrington, Pharmacy Superintendent, Sainsbury's Supermarkets, 33 Holborn, London, EX1N 2HT

Superdrug

Mr Martin Crisp, Superintendent Pharmacist, Superdrug, 118 Beddington Lane, Croydon, CR0 4TB

Tesco

Ms Penny Beck, Superintendent Pharmacist, Tesco Stores, PO Box 266, Cirrus House C, Shire Park, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 1SQ