



Medicines Use Reviews (MURs)

Guidance on priority patients for identification for MURs 2008-2009

The underlying purpose of MUR services is, with the patient's agreement, to improve his/her knowledge and use of drugs by in particular:

1. Establishing the patient's actual use, understanding and experience of taking drugs;
2. Identifying, discussing and assisting in the resolution of poor or ineffective use of drugs by the patient;
3. Identifying side effects and drug interactions that may affect the patient's compliance with instructions given to him by a health care professional for the taking of drugs;
4. Improving the clinical and cost effectiveness of drugs prescribed to patients thereby reducing the wastage of such drugs.

We have identified the following groups of patients with long-term conditions who would benefit most from a MUR as a priority for this year:

Patient Group	Rationale	Comments
Patients recently discharged from hospital	This vulnerable group of patients may need pharmaceutical support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medication regimes may have changed. • Readmissions due to medication-related problems could be reduced.
Patients on a bisphosphonate	Absorption is poor and patients should be counselled on how and when administration is most appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients should also be taking a calcium and vitamin D supplement but this should not be taken within two hours of the bisphosphonates.
Patients with diabetes controlled by diet and/or tablets	Poly-pharmacy often an issue with this group of patients.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A MUR would emphasise the importance of concordance to maintain tight blood pressure control and other measures to reduce cardiovascular risk. • Patients often focus on measuring blood glucose levels, however, this is of limited value as results are not usually used to alter management in any way.
Patients who are taking two low-dose tablets rather than one high-dose	Patients may be confused, especially where they are using calendar packs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low doses of many drugs are substantially cheaper than the high-dose equivalent. • Patients taking calendar packs could be advised how to take their medicines so that the day/time is still clear, e.g. by starting two strips together and taking one table/capsule from each.
Patients taking warfarin	NPSA alert issued in March 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A MUR can be used to ensure patients have understood the information contained in their "Yellow book".
Patients who are taking an NSAID	A significant number of patients suffer adverse events from NSAIDs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A MUR can be used to highlight the importance of taking an NSAID with food