

DIRECTORATE OF PHARMACY & MEDICINES MANAGEMENT

**SPECIFICATION FOR THE PROVISION OF MONITORED
DOSAGE SYSTEMS AT DISCHARGE FROM HOSPITAL
REQUIRED WITHIN HALF A WORKING DAY**

1. Background

Monitored Dosage Systems (MDS) are devices designed to support patients (who would otherwise not be able to manage their own medicines) to take the right medicines at the appropriate time. Patients of Doncaster & Bassetlaw Hospitals who require such support can face a significant delay in their discharge from hospital because of the time taken to arrange for the dispensing of their medication into a MDS by their nominated community pharmacy. This delay results in distress and inconvenience for patients and their family or carers and the unnecessary use of hospital beds.

Currently the hospital pharmacy department does not prepare MDSs because it is felt to be to the patients benefit to maintain continuity with the system used by their normal community pharmacy.

It has become apparent that the main reason for community pharmacies not being able to respond to hospital requests for MDSs more quickly is the requirement when presented with a single prescription for four weeks treatment (the current arrangement) to dispense all four weeks (ie four MDS trays) at the same time. Dispensing MDS trays is a time consuming activity and the requirement for this level of dispensing in short timescales may be incompatible with the other workload pressures faced by the community pharmacy at the time.

Both hospitals and community pharmacies have a responsibility under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) to provide reasonable adjustment for patients to enable them to take any NHS prescribed medication that may include MDSs or other aids to medicines management that they have assessed the patient requires. Such assessments are independent of each other and may change overtime.

Claims should be made as soon as possible after making the MDS supply using the attached form and sent to DBHT for the attention of

Pharmacy Purchasing Office, Pharmacy Department, Doncaster Royal Infirmary, Thorne Road, Doncaster, DN2 5LT

2. Scope of this specification

The scope of this specification covers two specific sets of circumstances:

a. New MDS Patients

Patients, requiring discharge from acute care to their own home or a residential home, who were not using a MDS prior to the hospital admission, are assessed by the hospital as requiring a MDS.

b. Existing MDS Patients

Patients, requiring discharge from acute care to their own home or a residential home, who were using an MDS prior to their admission and this requirement has not changed.

Patients being discharged to care homes with nursing care are not currently covered by the scope of this specification. In these circumstances medicines will continue to be provided by the hospital following normal discharge procedures and the care home with nursing care will be responsible for arranging for changes in medicine regimes to be incorporated in to their own systems by liaising with the appropriate GP and community pharmacy.

3. Detailed Specification for new MDS patients

Where a patient is assessed, by the hospital, as needing a MDS for the first time and is due to be discharged within half a working day the following will apply.

- A member of the hospital pharmacy staff will contact the community pharmacy nominated by the patient to confirm their willingness to provide a MDS under this specification.
- If the nominated community pharmacy is unable to provide the MDS, in line with this specification, a list of alternative community pharmacies willing to provide the service, will be offered to the patient from which to make a selection.
- Once agreement has been reached with a nominated community pharmacy the hospital will provide two FP10 prescriptions, one for 7 days and one for 21 days supply of the required medication. (Prescriptions will be faxed to the community pharmacy and then immediately sent by post)
- The nominated community pharmacy will prepare a MDS for the first 7 days supply of medicines within half a working day of receipt of the faxed prescription (see definitions).
- The initial 7 day MDS will either be delivered by the community pharmacy or collected from the community pharmacy in line with the agreement reached with the hospital pharmacy staff.

- The community pharmacy will prepare MDSs to cover the remaining 21 day period, and deliver these to the patient, in line with their normal standard operating procedures.
- Payment for the medicines and MDS will be via the normal FP10 funding arrangements. However in acknowledgement that the community pharmacy is discharging a DDA duty on behalf of the hospital a fee of £20 will be paid by the hospital to the community pharmacy (on receipt of an appropriate invoice).
- Hospital pharmacy staff will discuss with the patient and their carer(s) the arrangement for the MDS. This will include explaining that:
 - their need for the MDS may change and it may not be provided after the first 28 days following hospital discharge
 - that they patient will be responsible for arranging for the next prescription. (this may or may not be facilitated by the pharmacy, but all have to be aware that NHS Doncaster discourages prescription ordering by pharmacies that have not been initiated by the patient or their carer)
 - they need to contact the community pharmacy (or another community pharmacy of their choice) within the first 28 days following discharge to arrange for their ongoing needs for a MDS, or other forms of support with their medicines, and to be assessed by the community pharmacy
 - that this community pharmacy assessment is independent of the hospital.
 - they should not take other medication they may still have at home without checking with the hospital pharmacy, community pharmacy or their GP.
 - they should return any unwanted medication that they have at home to their community pharmacy for safe disposal
- Hospital pharmacy staff can advise patients to talk to their community pharmacist under the New Medicines Service, about any new medication that they have been started on
This information will also be provided to the patient in writing.
- Hospital pharmacy staff will inform the patients GP about these arrangements via the discharge letter.

4. Detailed Specification for existing MDS patients

Where a patient who had been using an MDS before their admission to hospital is due to be discharged within half a working day, the following will apply.

- A member of the hospital pharmacy staff will contact the patient's normal community pharmacy to inform them of the patients discharge and to discuss any medication changes if appropriate. (If the patient's normal community pharmacy is unable to provide an MDS in line with

this specification another community, pharmacy will be approached following the arrangements for new patients above.)

- Once agreement has been reached with the community pharmacy the hospital will provide two FP10 prescriptions, one for 7 days and one for 21 days supply of the required medication.(Prescriptions will be faxed to the community pharmacy and then immediately sent by post.)
- The community pharmacy will prepare a MDS for the first 7 days supply of medicines within half a working day of receipt of the faxed prescription (see definitions).
- The initial 7 day MDS will either be delivered by the community pharmacy or collected from the community pharmacy in line with the agreement reached with the hospital pharmacy staff.
- The community pharmacy will prepare MDSs to cover the remaining 21 day period, and deliver these to the patient, in line with their normal standard operating procedures.
- Payment for the medicines and MDS will be via the normal FP10 funding arrangements. However for the inconvenience of preparing a tray within half a working day a fee of £20 will be paid by the hospital to the community pharmacy (on receipt of an appropriate invoice).
- Hospital pharmacy staff can advise patients to talk to their community pharmacist under the New Medicines Service, about any new medication that they have been started on
- Hospital pharmacy staff will inform the patients GP about these arrangements via the discharge letter.

5. Definitions

Half a working day

The supply of the initial 7 day MDS in half a working day will be defined as:

Prescriptions faxed before 1pm will be ready for collection/delivery by 5.30pm on the same working day and prescriptions faxed before 6pm will be ready for collection/delivery by 1pm on the next working day.

For queries about this specification see Doncaster LPC website

<http://psnc.org.uk/doncaster-lpc/lpc-activity/services/dbhft-mds-scheme/>

or contact Nick Hunter, Secretary, Doncaster LPC

or contact

Pharmacy Department
Doncaster Royal Infirmary
Thorne Road
Doncaster
DN2 5LT
01302 366666