

## **7-Day prescriptions and weekly Monitored Dosage Systems (MDS)**

GP practices across South Yorkshire may begin reviewing patients currently receiving 7-day prescriptions, particularly where these are being used to support weekly MDS.

The South Yorkshire ICS position statement (attached) clarifies when 7-day prescribing is clinically appropriate and when it should not be used. For some patients, this may mean practices move from 7-day to 28-day prescribing.

### **Pharmacy contractors should be aware of several key points if this happens.**

- 7-Day prescriptions should be issued due to a clinical reason
- 7-day prescriptions are appropriate where there is a clear clinical need, such as:
  - Frequent medication changes
  - Treatment titration or review
  - Risk of medication overuse or harm
  - Stability issues where medicines cannot be safely supplied for a longer period in an MDS

However, issuing weekly prescriptions solely to support MDS provision is not considered appropriate.

### **GP Practices are not required to issue weekly prescriptions.**

Prescribers retain full responsibility for deciding the length of a prescription, and GP practices are not contractually required to issue 7-day prescriptions to support MDS provision.

***If prescribing intervals are changed, the responsibility for reviewing and assessing the patient sits with the prescriber.***

### **Community Pharmacies are not required to provide MDS.**

There is no contractual requirement or funded service for pharmacies to supply MDS.

Pharmacy contractors retain professional judgement over whether supplying medicines in an MDS is a **reasonable adjustment**, taking into account:

- Patient need
- Medicines suitability
- Safety considerations
- Operational and financial impact

### **Other healthcare or social care providers cannot mandate MDS provision.**

## **What happens if a GP practice moves to issue 28 day prescriptions for a patient who receives a weekly MDS?**

If a patient continues to receive an MDS but the prescription length changes to 28 days, pharmacies must still dispense the full quantity prescribed at once. Under NHS regulations, pharmacies cannot dispense standard FP10 prescriptions in weekly instalments, meaning the full 28-day supply must be dispensed at the start of the cycle.

Any medication change during a 28-day cycle will usually require:

- A new full prescription, and
- new 28-day MDS pack to be assembled and supplied.

A pharmacy contractor can offer to dispense medicines into an MDS as a private service and charge an appropriate fee.

A pharmacy contractor can also refuse to continue dispensing medicines into an MDS and refer any patients affected who wish to continue with an MDS back to their prescriber for a review and assessment of any clinical need for 7-day prescribing to continue.

### **Working Together**

The ICS position statement encourages close collaboration between GP practices and community pharmacies when reviewing existing 7-day prescribing.

Changes should be person-centred and clinically appropriate, while ensuring people who genuinely need additional medicines support continue to receive it.

### **Resources to support you**

CPSY has a range of resources available to support pharmacy contractors, their teams and wider partners they may be working with:

[CPSY Multi Compliance Aid \(MCA\) Briefing Sept 2025](#)

[7 day prescription Guidance Sept 2025](#)

[MDS Contractor Guide Sept 2025](#)

[MDS-Notification From](#)

SY ICB also have a position statement regarding the appropriate use of MDS:

[South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board \(ICB\) MDS Position Statement – Appropriate Use of Monitored Dosage Systems \(MDS\)](#)