

Dear Colleagues,

During this period it has come to our attention that some pharmacy contractors are reviewing their use of MDS / compliance aids to free up staff capacity to support the urgent work now at hand. Community pharmacy contractors are required as part of their core terms of service to make reasonable adjustments to support patient needs in taking their medicines; including the use of MDS / compliance aids. The decision whether to use MDS / compliance aids for a patient should be following review by the Responsible Pharmacist (RP). If the decision is taken to review the use of MDS / compliance aids this must be done on an individual patient basis and not a blanket decision. The patient / carer must be included in any assessment.

We advise that the RP documents each patient assessment and the decision made for that patient. This should include the details of the patient involvement in that decision and the communication of any decision to stop the provision of MDS / compliance aids. In addition to meeting the requirements, this may provide a useful record / safety net in the event of any complaint or allegation of harm. It is imperative that in reviewing use of MDS / compliance aids that no patients are put at risk of harm from medicines administration. In the event of any decisions to cease MDS / compliance aids the RP and pharmacy contractor are accountable for those decisions.

Kind Regards

Steve

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