

CPNY Guidance

Managing the Supply of Medication in MDS/MCA

CPNY is aware that pharmacies frequently receive requests to supply medication in monitored dosage systems/multidose compliance aids (MDS/MCA) such as NOMAD[®]. It is hoped that the following information will be helpful to colleagues in managing such requests.

- Pharmacists are legally required to make reasonable adjustments under the Equality Act 2010 to ensure that people with disabilities are not at a substantial disadvantage in accessing their medication. (Previously, this was required under the Disability Discrimination Act).
- A “reasonable adjustment” may include (but is not limited to) the use of a MDS/MCA. The decision of what adjustment would assist the person is that of the healthcare professional supplying the medication in conjunction with the person.
- The pharmacist’s decision can be challenged. A documented assessment is advised to support the pharmacist in demonstrating that due consideration has been given to the patient’s needs. Tools to support the professional judgement of the pharmacist are available at <https://www.pcc-cic.org.uk/article/disability-discrimination-act-resource-kit>
- The Royal Pharmaceutical Society has published information on safe and effective use of MDS/MCA including identification of issues which may make this method of supply inadvisable and identification of possible alternative methods of support. <https://www.rpharms.com/Portals/0/RPS%20document%20library/Open%20access/Support/toolkit/rps-mca-july-2013.pdf>
- Supply of a MDS/MCA where this would be a reasonable adjustment must not be charged for nor can it be dependent on the routine provision of 7 day prescriptions.
- If you believe a 7 day prescription is appropriate for a clinical or pharmaceutical reason you should discuss this with the prescriber. Prescribers are entitled to refuse requests for 7 day prescriptions if there is no identifiable clinical need. <http://psnc.org.uk/contract-it/pharmacy-regulation/dda/the-equality-act-2010-28-day-prescribing/>
- Not all medication can be included in a MDS/MCA. Helpful information on this can be accessed via Specialist Pharmacy Service website under the drug name. <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/>

Please note: There is no requirement to supply MDS/MCA for the convenience of others, such as care staff or for a person where this is not a reasonable adjustment. Supply of MDS/MCA for such groups should not be allowed to interfere with the ability of the pharmacy to make reasonable adjustments where required.

Further supporting information can be found in the PSNC updated briefing paper on the Equality Act <http://psnc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/PSNC-Briefing-060.17-Equality-Act-2010-A-quick-reference-guide.pdf>