

Medicines Optimisation Team  
NHS Devon ICB  
Aperture House,  
Pynes Hill,  
Rydon Lane,  
Exeter  
EX2 5AZ

Telephone: 01752 398800

Email: [D-ICB.medicinesoptimisation@nhs.net](mailto:D-ICB.medicinesoptimisation@nhs.net)

Dear Colleague,

**The Equality Act: making reasonable adjustments to help patients take their medicines; Monitored Dosage Systems (MDS)**

The attached “guiding principles” seek to describe a collective approach that stakeholders should use, when contemplating the use of an MDS device, for patients who may require additional support taking their medicines.

The principal aim is to ensure eligible patients receive the expected outcome from the medicines they are prescribed, through obtaining that support (i.e., reasonable adjustment) as defined by the Equality Act 2010, from their preferred community pharmacy (including online pharmacies), if appropriate.

You are asked to read, discuss with colleagues, and share onwards, so that all stakeholders are working in an aligned way, for the good of the patient.

I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight some important aspects whilst contemplating the optimal approach for your patients:

- Whilst a multidisciplinary approach is often promoted within healthcare, it is at the community pharmacist's sole discretion whether to supply medicines in an MDS device for any particular patient, or not.
- In order to support patients under the Equality Act, if an MDS device is not an appropriate reasonable adjustment, it is important to consider and discuss what other support is available to assist patients with their medicines taking.
- 7-day prescriptions should only be provided where there is a clear clinical need to restrict the supply of medications to a patient.

Thank you for taking time to read these “guiding principles”, your collective support in working to them is greatly valued.

Yours Faithfully

**Iain Roberts**

Head of Medicines Optimisation

NHS Devon ICB

