

Dispensing Volume Review - Changes to Periods of Treatment

Implementation and guidance



Community
Pharmacy Wales
Fferylliaeth
Gymunedol Cymru

Dispensing Volume Review- Background

- ▶ WG commissioned independent review into feasibility of reducing dispensing volumes in 2019
- ▶ Full review (March 2021) and subsequent WG response (Jan 22) published:

The findings support the view that it is feasible to reduce the volume of prescriptions ... through practical, system level changes to prescribing and dispensing arrangements.



Community
Pharmacy Wales
Fferylliaeth
Gymunedol Cymru

Findings from review

- ▶ On changing period of treatment
 - ▶ Wales behind other countries in extending prescribing intervals beyond 28 day (<10% items vs 35-40% in Scotland and approx. 25% England)
 - ▶ The belief that script lengths of >28 days increases waste of medicines to a significant degree is now not widely held or accepted
 - ▶ There is evidence that longer dispensing periods improve patient adherence and such longer periods of time are preferred by them
- ▶ Estimated time released by changing PoT is between 20 and 30%.



Community
Pharmacy Wales
Fferylliaeth
Gymunedol Cymru

Dispensing Volume Review -Guidance

From April 2022 contractors are asked to look to move all suitable patients from 28 days to 56 day prescribing

- ▶ Guidance for GP and Community Pharmacy issued February 2022 - result of joint work between CPW and GPC Wales (with support from LHB representatives)
- ▶ Other recommendations on non-medicine supply to follow later in year



Community
Pharmacy Wales
Fferylliaeth
Gymunedol Cymru

Who benefits?

- ▶ Pharmacy - release significant amounts of time for pharmacists and their teams to provide more focused direct patient care
- ▶ General Practice - reduction in the administrative workload involved in generating repeat prescriptions
- ▶ Patient - balance patient convenience with clinical appropriateness, cost-effectiveness and patient safety
- ▶ Green impacts- less frequent patient trips, fewer deliveries

Increasing capacity to deliver clinical services



Community
Pharmacy Wales
Fferylliaeth
Gymunedol Cymru

Dispensing Doctors (where applicable)

- ▶ The new advice is supported by changes to the community pharmacy contract but where practices dispense a change would currently disadvantage the practice due to reduction of items. GPCW and Welsh government are looking to adjust the dispensing contract in Wales to allow for this. Until then, or if agreement is not reached, dispensing practices should maintain the status quo but can still make the changes for prescribing patients for patient convenience and reducing practice workload.



Community
Pharmacy Wales
Fferylliaeth
Gymunedol Cymru

Purpose of the guidance

- ▶ Important to get it right first time and ensure everyone on same page going forward
- ▶ Planning and collaboration between all parties vital in landing successfully
- ▶ Moving without collaboration or proper planning risks poor patient experience and more work down the line
- ▶ Ensure we all avoid inappropriate peaks/troughs in workload



Community
Pharmacy Wales
Fferylliaeth
Gymunedol Cymru

Prescriber Guidance - When to change?

1. At annual medication review

- Or

2. In batches over a minimum* of 2 months

- e.g. 1/8th patients per week for 8 weeks

* avoid moving everyone in one month - creates peaks/troughs of workload



Community
Pharmacy Wales
Fferylliaeth
Gymunedol Cymru

Guidance - Exclusion Criteria

- ▶ Compliance aids/MAR chart - medication stability issues, patient factors mean higher risk
- ▶ Patients on Controlled Drugs - DHSC/WG guidance is for max 30 days for Sch 2,3,4 CDs
 - ▶ All meds to remain 28 day duration
- ▶ Specials - limited shelf life
- ▶ Patients not on stable regimes
- ▶ Patients requiring frequent monitoring (eg MTX/Warfarin)
- ▶ Known compliance or safety issues
- ▶ Other patients deemed unsuitable by their GP



Community
Pharmacy Wales
Fferylliaeth
Gymunedol Cymru

Guidance - Other considerations

- ▶ For an individual patient periods of treatment for all medications should be consistent (all meds 56 or all 28, never a mix)
- ▶ Change those in same household at same time
 - ▶ Avoids unnecessary travel for patient, avoids repeated deliveries to same address
- ▶ Consider those who may be carers for others
- ▶ Could also consider Repeat/Batch Prescriptions with extended periods of treatment



Community
Pharmacy Wales
Fferylliaeth
Gymunedol Cymru

Collaboration - Key points

- ▶ Agree local processes between GP and all serving pharmacies - all parties at once, probably over a series of meetings (virtual/f2f)
 - ▶ Discuss and agree plan and timescales,
 - ▶ How to identify excluded patients prior to starting switches
 - ▶ Listing MDS/Compliance
 - ▶ Identify patients who need to be moved at same time (same household, carers who collect for others etc))
 - ▶ Delivering clear and consistent messaging to patients
 - ▶ Understanding managing excluded patients going forward - MAR charts, specials, compliance aids - process for communicating changes and altering Rxs as needed
 - ▶ Identifying patients suitable for RD



Community
Pharmacy Wales
Fferylliaeth
Gymunedol Cymru

Information for Patients

General Practice and Community Pharmacies are asked to work collaboratively to agree clear and consistent messages to communicate the change to patients, which could include:

- At your next annual review (or sooner) if you normally get your prescription every 28 days, your prescription will be reviewed to see if the number of days medication you are provided could be extended. This will help to:
 - Reduce the number of trips you need to make to a community pharmacy/ GP practice per year
 - Free up time for both GP practices and community pharmacies to provide services to patients
- Some patients will not be suitable to change because:
 - Of the types of medication you take (for example strong painkillers, new medication or medication that requires close monitoring)
 - You need additional support for your medication (for example you have your medication dispensed in a compliance aid or a carer administers your medication)
- Please continue to Help Us to Help You by ordering your prescriptions 7 days in advance of when they are due to allow time for both the GP and community pharmacy to deal with the request.
- Please continue to only order what you need and return any unused or unwanted medication to community pharmacies for safe disposal.
- Order your medication electronically (online or via apps) where possible

For Dispensing Practices:

- Some remote and rural practices served by dispensing doctors will see a delay in moving to 56 days whilst parallel contractual discussions take place to maintain the viability of their dispensing practice

Patient
communication -
clear and
consistent
message from all
sides



Community
Pharmacy Wales
Fferylliaeth
Gymunedol Cymru

Other

No WG resources/comms - LHBs may support with their own - Clusters funding may support if necessary

56 Days is preferred. Different periods may be provided at GP discretion for variety of clinical reasons. Further extending all periods would significantly affect supply chain.

Cluster/LHB pharmacy teams should be able to support but “whole team approach” needed



Community
Pharmacy Wales
Fferylliaeth
Gymunedol Cymru

Useful Links

<http://www.cpwales.org.uk/getattachment/Dispensing-and-supply/Dispensing-Volume-Review/FINAL-REPORT-Review-of-dispensing-volumes-in-CP-March-2021.pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB>

<https://gov.wales/review-dispensing-volumes-community-pharmacies-welsh-government-response>

[http://www.cpwales.org.uk/Dispensing-and-supply/Dispensing-Volume-Review/Changes-to-Periods-of-Treatment-\(9\).aspx](http://www.cpwales.org.uk/Dispensing-and-supply/Dispensing-Volume-Review/Changes-to-Periods-of-Treatment-(9).aspx)



Community
Pharmacy Wales
Fferylliaeth
Gymunedol Cymru