**Guidance for Optimising Medicines Support for Patients**

**Seven Day Prescribing and Multi-compartment Compliance Aids (MCA) Best Practice**

**1 July 2020**

## Medicines Compliance Assessment Tool

This assessment tool can be used when a patient presents with a compliance problem with their prescribed medication. Using this tool will allow a judgement to be made on how best to adjust the supply of medication in order for the patient to take it correctly.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Patient details:  Name  Address  Tel no | GP details:  GP Name  GP Practice |

Where is this form being completed?

Patient’s home □ Pharmacy □ Hospital □ Other □ Please specify…………..………

Does the Equality Act 2010 apply to this patient: (refer to EA Guidance *– see definitions?*)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Does the patient have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial adverse effect on that person’s ability to carry out day to day activities that impact on taking their medicines? | YES | NO |
| Is the patient able to come to the pharmacy to discuss their needs? | YES | NO |
| Is any adjustment for the benefit of the patient (rather than a carer)? | YES | NO |

If all three questions are answered “yes” then the patient is covered by the Equality Act and the pharmacy/dispensary should attempt to make a reasonable adjustment.

If “no” you may still be able to assist (refer to managing Patients and Reasonable Adjustment for Medicines Flowchart) particularly if they are unable to come to the pharmacy to discuss their needs because of their physical/mental impairment. Discuss options available to help.

**Step 1** - What can the patient manage?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Swallowing | Swallow all their tablets/capsules? | Yes | No |
| **P** | Dexterity | Grip medicine bottles? | Yes | No |
| **H** |  | Halve tablets themselves (if required)? | Yes | No |
| **Y** |  | Open and close screw lids? | Yes | No |
| **S** |  | Open and close child-resistant lids? | Yes | No |
| **I** |  | Open and close winged lids? | Yes | No |
| **C** |  | Open medicine boxes? | Yes | No |
| A |  | Open blister strips? | Yes | No |
| **L** | Vision | Read standard print labels? | Yes | No |
|  |  | Read large print labels | Yes | No |
|  |  | Read braille labels (if patient blind)? | Yes | No |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **M** | Understanding | Understand each medicine dosage instruction? | Yes | No |
| **E** |  | Understand the importance of each medicine? | Yes | No |
| **N** |  | Understand how to take PRN medication? | Yes | No |
| **T** |  | Understand how to take variable doses (e.g. warfarin)? | Yes | No |
| **A** | Memory | Remember to take their medication regularly? | Yes | No |
| **L** |  | Remember to order their repeat medication? | Yes | No |

 If the answer to each question is’ yes’, it is unlikely the patient requires additional compliance support.

 If the answer to any question is ‘no’, proceed to the suggested adjustments listed in Step 2

**Step 2**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Problem** | **Suggested Solutions** | **Action Plan** |
|  |  |  |

If a suitable adjustment can be made, agree with the patient and commence

 If the suggested adjustments for the patient is an MCA, proceed to Step 3

**Step 3** – Is a Multi-compartment Compliance Aid (MCA) appropriate?

Consider the following for patients requesting an MCA tray

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Is the patient able to fill an MCA tray themselves? | Yes | No |
| Does patient have any relatives/carers who can fill a compliance aid? | Yes | No |
| If either of the above questions are yes, consider sale of appropriate MCA | Yes | No |
| If a pharmacy-filled MCA is to be considered |  |  |
| Can patient select medication from correct compartment? | Yes | No |
| Can patient remove medication from the box? | Yes | No |
| Does the patient understand how the MCA is to be used? | Yes | No |

Pharmacies and surgeries should supply MCAs under the Equality Act if it applies to the patient.

If the Equality Act does not apply or your reasonable adjustment does not solve the issue then discuss what support is available (refer to managing Patients and Reasonable Adjustment for Medicines Flowchart).