

Requests for Retrospective Prescriptions for appliances-

Recommendations

GP Practices should refer all requests for **retrospective prescriptions for appliances** to their Medicine Management team unless they have previously agreed that a supply can be provided due to an emergency

Companies known as Dispensing Appliance Contractors (DACs) who provide appliances in advance of a prescription do so at their own risk and there is no obligation on a GP practice to provide a retrospective prescription

Background

Community pharmacies (CP) and companies known as Dispensing Appliance Contractors (DACs) can dispense NHS prescriptions for appliances such as continence and stoma products

The process in East Kent is that

1. Supplies of appliances should not be sent from a DAC or CP to a patient unless the DAC or CP is in receipt of a prescription with the exception of point 4.3 below
2. Prescriptions for appliances should be initiated by the patient or carer via the surgery and NOT requested from the surgery by the DAC or CP.
3. **In the event of an emergency**, a request for a retrospective prescription should only be considered by the practice if the DAC or CP has details of
 - 3.1. The emergency circumstances in which the appliances were issued and
 - 3.2. the contact name of who the supply was authorised by at the practice prior to dispatch
 - 3.3. The surgery should contact the patient to confirm details of the emergency before approving a supply in advance of a prescription if possible
4. **Patients who are discharged from an acute trust requiring on-going use of a catheter**
 - 4.1. **Indwelling catheter and leg bag.**

The trust will normally discharge the patient with

 - a 'new' catheter and leg bag which will provide cover for one week and
 - one additional catheter and leg bag for a further weeks cover i.e. two weeks in total.
 - 4.2. **Intermittent self-catheterisation**

Patients will be discharged with sufficient catheters to last them a few weeks
 - 4.3. Following trial without catheter (TWOC) it may be that on-going use of catheters is not required and no further supplies are required. For example use of a catheter may not be required once the full effect of an anaesthetic has worn off
 - 4.4. Patients will be given the option to register with a DAC while in the acute trust to facilitate timely discharge.
 - 4.5. **Products may be sent out by the DAC in advance of the first prescription being received by the DAC to ensure that patients are not left without supplies**

Provided on behalf of: East Kent Prescribing Group (*Representing Ashford CCG, Canterbury and Coastal CCG,*

South Kent Coast CCG and Thanet CCG)

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- 4.6. Patients in this situation will have the process explained to them by the acute trust and are advised to request a prescription from their GP as soon as possible and send to the DAC.
 - 4.7. It is the patient's responsibility to request the prescription from the surgery. The DACs appreciate patients may not understand the system and will send reminders to the patient if the prescription to cover this initial supply is not subsequently received.
 - 4.8. The DACs have been asked not to contact surgeries in East Kent in the event a prescription is not received
 - 4.9. **Supplies sent in advance of a prescription being supplied are entirely at the DAC's risk**
 - 4.10. Most DACs will not issue further supplies to a patient if there is an outstanding prescription
 - 4.11. If on-going catheterisation is required, the request for a **second** prescription will be submitted to the GP practice earlier than expected as the **first** prescription covers supplies which have already been dispatched.
- 5. Patients who are discharged from an acute trust requiring on-going use of stoma appliances**
Supplies in advance of a prescription are not normally required as the stoma may change post-op and the type of product required may change. Stoma nurse providing post-op support will advise