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Synchronisation of repeat prescriptions

Janice Davies

Pharmacist Co-Course Leader – Non Medical Prescribing, University of Central Lancashire

jadavies5@uclan.ac.uk

Repeat prescriptions are prescriptions issued to a patient multiple times without requiring interaction with the GP or practice clinician. An efficient repeat prescribing system is necessary to deliver a high-quality service.

There are several examples of problems that can contribute to inefficiencies in the system, such as duplicated items, redundant items, patient monitoring overdue, and medication quantities not synchronised. These types of problems can lead to increased GP practice workload and frustration for patients, as they order a repeat prescription that is not issued. Many primary care organisations have a policy of prescribing for a duration of 28 days, as this can reduce potential waste if medicines are altered mid prescription compared with a longer duration of, for example, 2–3 months.

Below is a selection of repeat prescriptions, stating directions and quantities. Identify which item in each case is not synchronised to 28 days, and enter the most appropriate quantity to prescribe.

Mrs A, post-myocardial infarction

Medicine	Dose	Quantity	Synchronised to 28 days? Y/N	If N, state the correct quantity
Ramipril 5mg capsule	One to be taken twice a day	56		
Clopidogrel 75mg tablets	One to be taken each day	28		
Aspirin 7mg tablets	One to be taken each day	28		
Atorvastatin 80mg tablets	One to be taken each day	56		
Bisoprolol 10mg tablets	One to be taken each day	56		