

## Guidance for Optimising Medicines Support for Patients Seven Day Prescribing and Multi-compartment Compliance Aids (MCA) Best Practice 1 July 2020

### Definitions

#### Multi-Compartment Compliance Aids (MCA)

This document uses the RPS definition of an MCA that they defines this as a multi-compartment compliance aid as a repackaging system for solid dosage form medicines, such as tablets and capsules, where the medicines are removed from manufacturer's original packaging and repackaged into the MCA. This definition of an MCA would include repackaging systems such as monitored dosage systems (MDS) and daily dose reminders. Some new MCA systems are now marketed as being able to accommodate liquid dosage forms. MCA exist as both sealed and unsealed systems, and cassette (where several medicines can be in one compartment) or blister (where there is only one dose of a medication in each compartment) systems.

#### Equality Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 (the Equality Act) provides that a person must not be treated in a discriminatory way because of a "protected characteristic" by service providers (including providers of goods, services and facilities) when that person requires their service. A disability would constitute a "protected characteristic" identified in the Equality Act.

The first matter to consider is whether the patient has a disability. A person is regarded as being disabled, if they have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial adverse effect on that person's ability to carry out day to day activities. The adverse effect must be "substantial" i.e. not minor or trivial. The Equality Act does not create a spectrum, or sliding scale, running from those matters which are clearly of substantial effect to those matters which are clearly trivial, but rather unless a matter can be classified as 'trivial' or 'minor', it must be treated as substantial.

Further information on the Equality Act 2010 can be found on the [GOV.UK website](https://www.gov.uk).

#### Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS)

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) is the professional membership body for pharmacists and pharmacy. Further information can be found on their [website](https://www.rps.org.uk).

#### Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC)

Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) promotes and supports the interests of all NHS community pharmacies in England. They are recognised by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care as the body that represents NHS pharmacy contractors. We work closely with Local Pharmaceutical Committees (LPCs) to support their role as the local NHS representative organisations. Further information can be found on their [website](https://www.psnc.org.uk).

#### LMC

LMCs are local representative committees of NHS GPs and represent their interests in their localities to the NHS health authorities. Further information on Beds and Herts LMC can be found on their [website](https://www.beds-herts-lmc.org.uk).

#### LPC

The local organisation for community pharmacy is the Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC). The LPC is the focus for all community pharmacists and community pharmacy owners and is an independent and representative group. The LPC works locally with NHS England Area Teams, CCGs, Local Authorities and other healthcare professionals to help plan healthcare services. Further information on Hertfordshire LPC (Community Pharmacy Hertfordshire) can be found on their [website](https://www.hertfordshire-lpc.org.uk).

#### Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) were created following the Health and Social Care Act in 2012, and replaced Primary Care Trusts on 1 April 2013. They are clinically-led statutory NHS bodies responsible for the

planning and commissioning of health care services for their local area.

CCGs commission most of the hospital and community NHS services in the local areas for which they are responsible. Commissioning involves deciding what services are needed for diverse local populations, and ensuring that they are provided.

CCGs are assured by NHS England, which retains responsibility for commissioning primary care services such as GP and dental services, as well as some specialised hospital services. Many GP services are now co-commissioned with CCGs. All GP practices are members a CCG, but CCGs also include other health professionals, such as nurses.

Further information can be found on the [East and North Hertfordshire CCG website](#) and the [Herts Valleys CCG website](#).

### **Sustainability and Transformation Partnership**

STP stands for sustainability and transformation partnership. These are areas covering all of England, where local NHS organisations and councils drew up shared proposals to improve health and care in the areas they serve.

STPs were created to bring local health and care leaders together to plan around the long-term needs of local communities.

Further information can be found on the Hertfordshire and West Essex STP [website](#).

### **Medicines Act 1968**

The 1968 Medicines Act regulates the licensing, supply and administration of medicines.

### **Care Quality Commission (CQC)**

CQC is the independent regulator of health and adult social care in England. Further information can be found on the [website](#).

### **Hertfordshire County Council (HCC)**

HCC commission adult social care for their population which will include provision of care packages from care agencies. Further information about HCC can be found on their [website](#).