

Information leaflet on supply of Multi-compartment Compliance Aids (MCA)

Community Pharmacies in Hertfordshire will now only be able to supply MCAs free of charge to patients who have been assessed to be eligible.

What are Multi-compartment compliance aids?

Multi-compartment compliance aids, commonly known as blister packs or dosette boxes are containers that are filled by your community pharmacy. They are designed to help people manage their medicines. An example is shown below.



Why has the use of Multi-compartment compliance aids been reviewed?

Multi-compartment compliance aids are one way to help manage your medicine but they aren't always the best solution. They should only be used for people who will gain the most benefit from them.

Some medicines shouldn't be put in these packs as the medicines 'go off' when stored in this way.

If your prescription changes and you haven't finished your box, it is difficult to make changes to it. Some people may get confused and take the wrong medicines.

What if I feel that I need support to help manage my medicines?

If you, or your carer, think that you may have a problem managing your medicines, then you should speak to staff at your local community pharmacy who can discuss what support is available to support you.

What other options are available to help me with my medicines?

There are many options that might be helpful for you if you need help with your medicines. Please ask your community pharmacy about these.

Some examples that may be available from your local pharmacy include:

- large print labels if you have difficulty reading labels
- charts that list your medicines so you can record when you take them
- 'easy open' caps if you have difficulty opening child-resistant medicine caps.

Will I be charged if I am offered support with my medicines?

Multi-compartment compliance aids may not be provided free of charge to all patients. If you have a disability and a Multi-compartment compliance aid is suitable for you it will be free.

If you would like a Multi-compartment compliance aid, you may still be able to obtain one through your local community pharmacy. Your community pharmacy will discuss options with you but there may be an extra charge for the aid.

Will these changes affect my prescriptions?

In most cases you will not notice a change to your prescriptions. Some people may notice that their prescription duration changes depending on their personal circumstances. Shorter duration (e.g. seven day) prescriptions will be issued by your doctor if they think that there is a risk to you if a prescription for a larger supply is given.

Where can I get further information on this?

Further information can be obtained from your local community pharmacy.

Information on the guidance is available on [Community Pharmacy Hertfordshire website](#).