Procedure for Administration of Patient’s Own Medication from a Multi-drug Compliance Aid in the Ward Environment

GUIDELINE VERSION | Version 1
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RATIFYING COMMITTEE | 
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**Procedure for the administration of a patient’s own medication from a multi-dose compliance aid in the ward environment**

**Context**

The use of a patient’s own drugs (PODs) brought in from home is usually acceptable within the Trust (see Medicines Code).

Medicines in compliance aids, such as blister packs containing multiple medications, have been excluded as suitable for administration. This is due to difficulties in identifying individual doses and concerns over stability of the medication. Only sealed blister packs, which have one medicine per sheet, have been deemed suitable for administration during admission in the Medicines Code.

In certain circumstances however, it may be advantageous to patient care to administer medication out of a blister pack with multiple medicines.

This procedure is primarily intended for use by nurses when:

- Medication to be given is not available from the pharmacy (or if the pharmacy is closed, the emergency drug cupboard).

- Obtaining the medicine would lead to an unacceptable delay (see 'Reducing harm from omitted and delayed medicines in hospital' in Medicines Code for guidance).

**Procedure for administration of medications from a blister pack with multiple medicines in each blister** (see also Appendix 1)

1. Before using a dose(s) from the blister pack, ensure that medication is essential and is not available as stock, is in the emergency drug cupboard or can be obtained from pharmacy before the dose is needed.

2. Ensure that all medicines to be given are prescribed correctly and that the prescription on the drug chart for the medicine(s) needed exactly match(es) the corresponding label on the blister pack. If there are any discrepancies, clarify the prescription with a doctor.

3. Check that the blister pack has been dispensed by a pharmacy within the last four weeks.

4. Identify the exact blister to be administered from the correct day and time of day as it would be taken if the patient was self-administering (e.g. if a Sunday at 6pm, give Sunday teatime blister).
5. Check that each dose unit needed corresponds with a pharmacy label and the prescription on the drug chart. The blister pack should detail the colour, shape, and any imprint codes for each tablet or capsule contained within. **IF IN DOUBT, ABOUT IDENTIFYING THE CORRECT TABLET OR CAPSULE, DO NOT ADMINISTER.** Contact THE ward pharmacist (or on-call pharmacist if out-of-hours) for advice/supply.

6. Ask another nurse, doctor, or pharmacist (if on ward) to check that the correct blister and medicine has been selected.

7. If there are other medicines within the same blister that are not needed, because they have been discontinued or ward stocks are available, these should be disposed of in-line with the Trust’s Medicines Code (see chapter 18) See link below: [www.sussexpartnership.nhs.uk/medicines-code-and-vision-strategy-medicines-optimization](http://www.sussexpartnership.nhs.uk/medicines-code-and-vision-strategy-medicines-optimization)

8. Administer each selected dose and initial the drug chart for each dose, both nurse and checker.

9. A new supply must be obtained as soon as possible from the pharmacy, though further doses can be used from the blister pack until new stock is available, following the same procedure.

Version 1 – May 2016

Review May 2019
Algorithm - Procedure for the administration of a patient’s own medication from a multi-dose compliance aid (MDCA) in the ward environment in exceptional circumstances (Version 1 – May 2016)

A patient has been admitted to the ward and they have brought a multi-drug blister pack containing all of their medication with them. You require an individual dose of a single medication (or multiple) from the MDCA.

Would ordering the medication from pharmacy, checking the emergency cupboard or using an FP10 lead to an unacceptable delay?

No

Order medications from pharmacy or check the emergency cupboard or use an FP10 to obtain a supply.

Yes

Was the MDCA dispensed within the last 4 weeks?

No

Do not administer as medication may no longer be suitable for use. Contact the pharmacy team (or on call pharmacist) for advice.

Yes

Compare the labelled directions on the MDCA for the medicine(s) required with the prescription on the drug chart. Are there any discrepancies?

Yes

Clarify prescription with a doctor.

No

Identify the correct blister for the time and day containing the required dose unit(s).

The MDCA label should detail the colour, shape and any imprint codes for each tablet or capsule. If it does not, DO NOT USE

No

Identify the individual dose(s) required and ensure each dose matches the description on the pharmacy label. Are you able to identify the dose(s)?

No

Do not administer as the medication may not be correct. Contact the on call pharmacist for advice.

Yes

Ask another nurse, doctor, or pharmacy team member to double check that the correct medication has been identified.

Administer the required medication from the MDCA and initial the administration box(es) along with the checker. Asterisk(*) the administration box and write “*Given from MDCA” in the ‘Additional instructions’ box of the drug chart for each medicine supplied from the blister pack.

Assuming the medication can be identified; doses can be administered from the MDCA until pharmacy opens and a new supply can be obtained.

Any dose in an open blister that does not need to be administered should be discarded in-line with the Medicines Code (see chapter 18)