

7-day prescriptions

a Doncaster wide initiative

Listening to the views of Doncaster community pharmacy contractors and taking in the picture of the larger pharmacy landscape, Doncaster LPC has been working collaboratively with primary care representatives to develop efficient processes and create capacity with prescription ordering and dispensing.

We hope and encourage you adopt the suggested prescription dispensing timelines below, which have been approved by Doncaster LPC, the LMC and the ICB, to reduce pressure, improve dispensing efficiency and create capacity in your pharmacy to offer better patient care and pharmacy services.

What's the initiative?

It's simple – **a 7-day turnaround on regular, repeat medication** or 10 days to include delivery (if offered by your pharmacy).

This initiative does not include acute or urgent medication requests and you should deal with these using your normal processes. We have requested that GP surgeries highlight any acute or urgent requests when sending prescriptions.

How will it work?

Patients

We are using a press office to work with local papers, the initiative will be covered in local press to raise awareness and promote the initiative, encouraging patients to create time for their pharmacy teams to dispense their prescriptions. We are also planning some further articles to include more information about the types of advice and services offered by community pharmacy, and we hope it will encourage more people to engage with funded pharmacy services such as the Hypertension Case-finding Service.

Pharmacy teams

You should start speaking to your patients about their prescribing habits, encouraging them to order their regular medication 10 days before they run out. Inform patients of the 7-day turnaround for prescriptions, order on a Monday, collect the following Monday etc, (or 10 days if it is a delivery).

You may have your own processes in your pharmacy for ordering patient medication and these should be reviewed to include the new prescription turnaround times.

GP teams

Doncaster LPC and LMC will work with GP practices over the coming weeks to imbed new practices to encourage patients to order repeat medication up to 10 days before it is due.

An initial piece of work will begin working with the GP practices to adjust the initial change (as the first prescription will be outside of usual prescribing timelines). Once the initial adjustment has been made, further prescriptions will follow the usual 28/30 day prescribing pattern eliminating the concern about 'stock piling'.

PTO...

Day
1

Order your
prescription



NHS

Day
2-3

Prescription
checked &
signed by GP



NHS

Prescription
sent to pharmacy



Day
4

Prescription
checked
by pharmacy



Day
5

Stock
ordered



Day
6

Prescription
dispensed



Day
7

Collect your
prescription



Why should my pharmacy get involved?

- Reduce call backs, owings, & waiting times
- Reduce the number of patients attending immediately after ordering or before the dispensing process is complete.

Would you like more time to:

- Organise your medicines ordering and ensure items are in stock, reducing owings?
- Prioritise urgent prescriptions?
- Complete contractual tasks?
- Undertake learning for PQS?
- Increase your income into your pharmacy by offering more funded services?
- Spend more time with your patients or offer better patient care?

This is the initiative for you!

The initiative has the full support of the LMC and will be promoted to PCNs and all GP teams in Doncaster – the only way we can educate patients and other healthcare teams is if we work together to imbed good practice.

What support is available?

Resources have been agreed by Doncaster LPC and LMC and each community pharmacy in Doncaster will receive.

- Patient letters
- A4 and A3 Poster
- Prescription bag Stickers
- A5 leaflets
- Video resource for social media

Attached to this information are examples of resources to support the initiative and further information.

Doncaster LPC is always available to support our community pharmacy contractors – you can contact us easily using “insert contact information” should you have any questions or like more information about the initiative.

