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Information for patients requesting dosette boxes

Whilst dosette boxes can be useful for some patients, there are other alternatives that can help patients who have difficulty taking their medications. Community pharmacists can advise on these. There are also disadvantages to dosette boxes, such as when medications need to be stopped or change part way through a month.

We are aware that some local pharmacies have stopped offering dosette box provision. This is likely to be due to the time taken, and inadequate funding received by the pharmacy to cover this. Other pharmacies may still offer this service, but may charge a fee to cover the time taken to make up the boxes.

We are sometimes asked by patients or pharmacies to change prescriptions to a 7-day supply, in order that the pharmacy may claim four dispensing fees per month to try to cover the cost. We have been advised by the Thames Valley Integrated Care Board that we are not permitted to do this. 7-day prescriptions are only to be used where a pharmacy dispenses one week of medication at a time for safety reasons (this is very rare).

Patients requesting a dosette box can discuss the request with any pharmacy of their choice. It is up to the pharmacy to decide whether they can take on new dosette patients, and they may make a charge for this service.

Practice staff cannot liaise with pharmacies about the provision of dosette boxes, and we are also not able to change medication frequency to 7-day prescriptions.