

Medication Reviews for Repeat Prescribing

This factsheet should be read in conjunction with our factsheets on *Repeat Prescribing* and *Safer Prescribing* available on our website.

All patients receiving long term medicines by way of repeat prescriptions need to be reviewed regularly. The interval should be determined by the GP and will vary on a case by case basis. The review can involve either:

- review of the patient's records to check medication and / or medical history, or
- review at a face-to-face consultation.

Certain groups need more frequent review:

- a. Patients over 65 years of age.
- b. Patients on four or more medicines.
- c. Recent hospital and OPD discharges.
- d. Those on high-risk medicines (ie, methotrexate, lithium, sodium valproate, etc.).

Please note there should be a robust system in place to monitor patient on high-risk medication.

The review should include an assessment of:

- the medical problems for which medications are being prescribed. The condition for which the patient is taking the repeat medication should be clear from the medical record, e.g. Gastro-oesophageal Reflux Disease (GORD) in the summary of a patient taking a Protein Pump Inhibitor
- medication dose, frequency, efficacy, tolerability, interactions, contraindications
- any investigations needed
- change in patient's clinical status
- patient ideas, concerns.

Ideally repeat prescriptions should be synchronised to make re-ordering easier for patients / staff and in line with the scheduled clinical review. Single items should state "No Repeat", otherwise a pharmacist may repeat dispense.

Please also refer to Medisec's related factsheets, available on our website:

- *Repeat Prescribing Best Practice*
- *Safer Prescribing*
- *Medisec's Steps to Safer Prescribing.*

Members should contact Medisec if they have any queries in relation to Medication Reviews.

"The contents of this publication are indicative of current developments and contain guidance on general medico legal queries. It does not constitute and should not be relied upon as definitive legal, clinical or other advice and if you have any specific queries, please contact Medisec for advice".

November 2020