

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

***Community Pharmacies in Hertfordshire and West Essex 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 and when may they be used?**

Multi-compartment compliance aids, commonly known as blister packs or dosette boxes are containers that are filled by your community pharmacy. They are one of a range of support options available from your local community pharmacy to help you manage your medicines and should only be used for people who get the most benefit from them and not for carers to give you your medications.

A number of medicines are not suitable to be added to an MCA box, as removing the medicine from its original packaging, is not recommended as the medication may 'go off' e.g., may become less active/effective or possibly dangerous to you, or there are risks to a person handling it when it has been removed. Also, if your prescription changes and you have not finished your MCA pack, it is difficult to amend it. You may get confused and take the wrong medicines.

An example of an MCA is shown below.



### **Who can discuss what support is available to you?**

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.

### **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. Remember, not all your medicines may be suitable to go into an MCA.

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 the doctor thinks, there is a risk to you.

**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 ‘*insert link when approved guidance published on website*’

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