

Twenty-eight-day Prescription Information- Concord Medical Centre

Following the start of the Covid-19 pandemic medication supply has been more erratic than normal with panic ordering of medication and international demand, and international supply issues that have resulted in shortages of vital medication from anti-rheumatic drugs to inhalers. As a result of this NHS England has recommended that prescription duration should normally be limited to 28 days. This is to reduce the potential for temporary difficulties in the supply of medication. This was communicated to GPs by Dr Nikki Kanani, Medical Director of Primary Care for NHS England and NHS Improvement, on a primary care webinar, on 19th March 2020. This was confirmed in a direct tweet response (see below) when one of our own doctors, Dr Bradley, requested confirmation of this. His question recognised that some people would be unhappy about this approach.

The screenshot shows a Twitter thread with three tweets. The first tweet is from Graham Stretch (@GrahamStretch) on March 19, mentioning a webinar by @NHSEngland and @NikkiKF about 28-day eRDs for key workers. It includes a GIF with the word 'NEWS' in red on a black background. The second tweet is a reply from Simon Bradley (@SimonBradley8) asking for instructions to communicate the 28-day message to the public and GPs. The third tweet is a reply from Dr Nikita Kanani (@NikkiKF) confirming the recommendation and listing relevant NHS accounts.

Tweet

Graham Stretch @GrahamStretch · Mar 19
Webinar @NHSEngland : @NikkiKF "you heard it here first Pharmacy and GP - you are key workers..... please move people onto 28 day eRD"
Ed Waller "all staff needed to open pharmacies and GP, are key workers that is our view"

1 23 43

Simon Bradley @SimonBradley8
Replying to @GrahamStretch @NHSEngland and @NikkiKF
Important to get the 28 day message out to the public or GPs and pharmacies will get a lot of push back. Can we have an instruction to send, show to the disgruntled?
9:32 PM · Mar 19, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone
View Tweet activity
8 Likes

Dr Nikita Kanani @NikkiKF · Mar 19
Replying to @SimonBradley8 @GrahamStretch and @NHSEngland
Ok let's pick that up if not already @PrimaryCareNHS @PHBKent @juliet_nowell
3 1 4

In order to ease any practical difficulties around this for patients and for the need for more frequent surgery attendance to collect prescriptions, the recommendation included that

there should be a move to electronic prescriptions via the Electronic Prescription Service and for repeat prescriptions to be issued under the Electronic Repeat Dispensing Service. The latter allows for repeat medication ordering to be done directly through the pharmacy when the GP issues up to a year's batch of prescriptions.

28-day prescribing for repeat prescriptions has been considered to be good practice for years and has been the norm in many areas of the country for some time. In particular the evidence shows that 28-day prescribing reduces cost and waste for the NHS. Further information on this can be found by following this link.

<https://www.westsuffolkccg.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Prescribing-intervals-guidance-for-patients-FINAL-150714.pdf>

We at Concord Medical Centre recognize that this will seem less convenient for some people and may be more expensive for a small minority. If you are one of those people who has been inconvenienced by this or who finds that it costs them more than it did before, we are very sorry. Unfortunately, we cannot vary our approach for individuals as this would cause unfairness and so we have to be consistent in its application.

Dr Simon Bradley