



# Discharge Medicines Service



Many people have their regular medicines changed or start on new medicine in hospital or at an intermediate care unit, so NHS England developed this service to support patients after they go home.

The pharmacy team can help to make sure that you get advice and support with your medicines when you leave intermediate care.

## What is the Discharge Medicines Service (DMS)?

Discharge Medicines Service (DMS) is provided by all community pharmacies for patients who would need extra support and advice about their medicines.

The DMS makes it easier for the community pharmacy team to know about your medication and to give you more information about it. For example, they can tell you when to take it, how long you may need it for, what effects it may have, how you'll be monitored and if you need to stop any other medication.

## How does the Discharge Medicines Service work?

During your intermediate care admission, the pharmacy team will ask if you would like a referral to your chosen community pharmacy.

If you say yes, the pharmacy team will make a note of your chosen community pharmacy and your telephone number. When you're ready to be discharged, they will start the referral process.

Your pharmacy will receive a digital referral and a copy of your discharge information including dose changes, stopped medicines and new medicines started. This may also include details about your health conditions.

The digital referral is sent from the intermediate care unit to your community pharmacy using a secure online system.

## Who can be referred?

Patients are referred from a CHCP intermediate care unit following a stay for health or rehabilitation. You might benefit from the service if:

- ✓ You are over 65
- ✓ You're using compliance aids like NOMAD or dosette box
- ✓ You are taking more than five long-term medicines
- ✓ Your medicines have been changed
- ✓ You've started new medicines
- ✓ You are taking high-risk or critical medicines like anticoagulants (blood thinners)

There may be other reasons why the service would be helpful for you. The pharmacy team will talk to you during your stay about it.







## How does the Discharge Medicines Service help you?

When your GP gives you a new prescription, the community pharmacist will check your medication.

The community pharmacist will look at the information in your referral and compare your medicines when you're discharged to those you were taking before you went into hospital and/or an intermediate care unit.

Talking to your community pharmacist will help you and/or your carer understand the medicines you should now be taking. You can talk to them in person or on the phone.

Your community pharmacist is an expert in medicines and can help support your knowledge and understanding and will:

-  Discuss any new medicines
-  Explain what your medicines are for
-  Explain how best to take your medicines
-  Explain any side-effects you need to be aware of
-  Review all the medicines that you are taking
-  Address any questions you may have about your medicines

#### **For further help or information**

Please talk to the doctor or nurse looking after you.

You can also call our  
Data Protection Officer  
on **01482 347627** or  
email them at:  
**[chcp.customercare@nhs.net](mailto:chcp.customercare@nhs.net)**

#### **For independent advice:**

**Information Commissioner,  
Wycliffe House, Water Lane,  
Wilmslow, Cheshire  
SK9 5AF**

**Tel: 01625 545700**

If you would like this document in an alternative language or format, such as audio tape, large print or Braille, please call: **01482 347649**

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