

Top Tips for Stoma Prescribing

Over prescribing and over-ordering of stoma products are frequently identified in primary care as important causes of wasteful prescribing. Ensuring patients are prescribed appropriate appliances and accessories can greatly improve their quality of life.

- Record name and contact details of Dispensing Appliance Contractor (DAC) in the patient's electronic health record.
- Ensure the practice has a process for dealing with requests e.g. separate folder or have a designated staff member e.g. prescribing clerk.
- Patients recently discharged from acute providers are generally provided with enough supplies until their post-discharge review. Once reviewed, GP will be informed of the patient's monthly requirements via letter by the stoma team.
- **Only initiate new products, including ancillary products on the advice of the stoma team**
- Prescriptions for appliances should only be issued at the request of the patient or their carer and they should not routinely be accepted from dispensing appliance contractors. However, it is appreciated that this service may be appropriate for a small number of patients, but the expectation is that the requests will only be for products recommended by the stoma team and contact should have been made with the patient.
- Requests for patients in Care Homes, should ideally originate from the Care Home Staff or Health Care Professional involved in the resident's care.
- Prescribers are under **no obligation** to supply a retrospective prescription for items already issued by the supplier without prior agreement of the prescriber.
- Emergency requests should only be at the request of the patient or patient's carer / Stoma Nurse Specialist / District Nurse.
- BEFORE issuing prescriptions:
 - Always **check** the date of the last issue
 - Check for duplication - query any requests for duplicated prescriptions.
 - Ensure the quantities requested seem appropriate using Surrey Heartlands Guidance ([Surrey Heartlands Guidance on stoma prescribing quantities - Mar 24.pdf \(res-systems.net\)](#)). **One month's supply** at a time is advised for stable patients (except under exceptional circumstances). If the patient is trialing a new product on the advice of their stoma team, a smaller quantity should be prescribed.
 - **Contact the patient** to check their current stock levels, particularly if frequent issues. Advise on appropriate storage and stock rotation, discourage stockpiling.
 - Check whether the patient has been seen by a Stoma Nurse in the last **12 months**. Patients should be encouraged to attend these reviews (may be face to face or by telephone)
 - Caution with similar names/codes, **always prescribe by brand**.
- Issue prescriptions separately to the rest of the patient's medication to avoid dispensing problems.
- Damaged products on receipt should be asked to be replaced by supplier, GP should not generate a new prescription.
- DACs may supply patients with sample products – these should **not** be added to the patient's prescription – any changes will be requested in writing by the stoma team.
- Clinical reviews will:
 - Include recommended monthly quantities of stoma bags and any ancillary products (e.g. adhesive removers) discussed and agreed by stoma nurse and patient.
 - Detail any changes made to products/supplier details.