

Protocol for Bulk prescribing in Care Homes

A bulk FP10 prescription can be written for a care home provided the following criteria are met:

- The item prescribed in bulk is either P or GSL medicines normally available for purchase
- Where the care home has at least 20 resident, 10 of which are registered with the prescribing practice.
- **Patients who are not registered with the prescribing practice must continue to have individual prescriptions from their own GPs**

The issue of a bulk prescription allows the care home staff to use the same supply for all residents who are clinically identified as suitable for the prescribed medication.

The following procedure is recommended to ensure safe practice

- The care home should agree with the GP a suitable list of medication which could be bulk prescribed. Examples may include:
Laxido, lactulose, adcal D3, thick and easy powder
- An initial individualised prescription must be written for any resident in order that a clinician has identified the clinical need and a specified dose is individualised. This will ensure that the medication is printed on the MAR sheet with the specified dose
- A copy of the original prescription should be kept in the residents care plans
- Following the initial prescription, the resident can then be put on a monthly list of residents which is sent into the GP each month **and signed off** to ensure their continued suitability for the medication. Retain a copy for audit purposes
- If the GP requires a dose change then an individualised prescription should be written to reflect the new dose for printing on the MAR. A short term dose change can be changed by the GP on the MAR and initialled
- The total quantity required should be specified by the home after a stock check has been carried out. The stock check will be through a monthly audit counting doses administered and remaining balance. The list should be reviewed in more depth at least 6 monthly in line with individualised medication reviews, checking compliance and continued need
- The pharmacy should be sent the monthly list. This will then ensure that the medication is continued to be printed on the MAR sheet
- The pharmacy must label the bulk medication with the name of the care home and the dose can be written "to be given in accordance with GP instruction"