

20 December 2023

Improving Medication Compliance and Adherence

I have a freedom of information request regarding the use of multi-medicine pill pouches to increase medication compliance, save on medication waste and increase adherence rates for especially the polymedicated elderly.

1. Within your Health and Social Care Trust

- a) Where are you using multi-medicine pill pouches, e.g., acute hospitals, mental health hospitals, nursing homes, residential care homes, patient's homes? Kindly provide a name and department of this place.**
- b) Which type of organization is requesting them, e.g., hospitals, nursing homes, community care providers?**
- c) Who provides these pouches, e.g., hospitals, community pharmacies (please state name & address)?**

Multi-pill pouches are used across the community setting, however, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust do not have responsibility for provision of these. This is agreed between the GP and community pharmacy.

Community Pharmacies provide compliance aids to clients who they assess as requiring this. This Personal client data, including place of residence, is held by CPNI (Community Pharmacy Northern Ireland) and is subject to Data Protection legislation – www.communitypharmacyni.co.uk

Belfast Trust supply clozapine in PilPacPlus® device to appropriate patients, and PilPacPlus to a small number of older people at discharge, who have been appropriately assessed.

2. Does your Health and Social Care Trust conduct continued care at home visits solely for the purpose of conducting medication adherence prompts? If so,

- a) What type of patient are you providing this service for, e.g., fragility, mental health, Parkinson's disease, epilepsy?**
- b) How many patients require these medication prompt visits per month?**
- c) How long does it take for the staff member / carer to conduct a patient medication prompt visit?**

Belfast Trust provide a range of care and support to individuals who require support, not only with medication adherence prompts. The Trust would be unable to provide this detail as to do so would require a manual trawl through the individual records of over 4,000 service users receiving domiciliary care.

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The Trust considers that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'Appropriate Limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information Act under Section 12. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified as £450 for public authorities such as Belfast Trust. This represents the cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.

3. In your Health and Social Care Trust, are you using medical devices or technology to improve medication adherence at home? If so,

a) What type of device / technology are you using?

We use a range of medicine adherence aids such as pill poppers, reusable pill boxes, eye drop applicators, reminder alarms, tick charts, reminder charts etc. to help the client manage their medication effectively and remain independent, along with medicines optimisation to address inappropriate polypharmacy.

b) Is this device / technology used in conjunction with patient medication prompt visits, or has this reduced the number of medication prompt visits required?

Generally these aids are put in place to reduce the need for any medication prompt visits or in some cases to reduce the number of visits.

c) Are you planning on increasing investment or the number medication adherence solutions available to your local population to improve medicines adherence at home (especially for the most vulnerable patients)? If so, how?

See response to question (1) and question (3a).