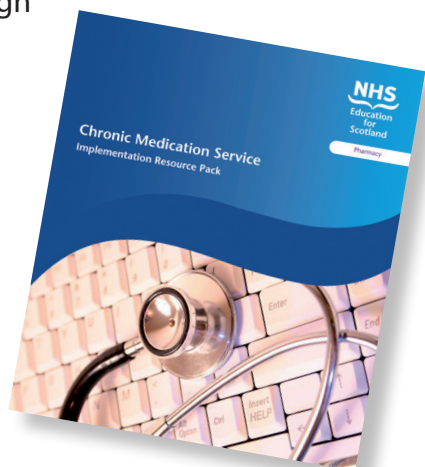


# The Chronic Medication Service

## What is the Chronic Medication Service (CMS)?

The Chronic Medication Service (CMS) is one of the four core services in the Community Pharmacy Contract in Scotland, and will be rolled out across Scotland during 2010/11. It aims to assist patients in obtaining the best outcomes from their medication by further developing the contribution of community pharmacists to the management of patients with long-term conditions.

*Establishing Effective Therapeutic Partnerships* - the report produced by an Advisory Group under the chairmanship of Professor Lewis Ritchie, provided a very sound base on which to build CMS. The major theme was improving patient care through the establishment of therapeutic partnerships between patients, general medical practitioners and community pharmacists.



## ***But why should CMS be of interest to you and your practice?***

Here are just a few of the benefits for you and your patients:

- The patient will have an electronic community-pharmacy-based patient medication record and may have agreed a pharmaceutical care plan with their community pharmacist. This provides a structure for the provision of ongoing care, advice and follow up.
- Disease specific protocols will be developed which will aid consistency of practice and reinforcement of key messages to aid safe and effective use of the patients prescribed medicines.
- Any over the counter medicines or alternative treatments bought by the patient may be added to the care plan and be checked for potential contra-indications or interactions with the patients prescribed medication.
- End-of-care treatment summaries will be electronically sent from pharmacy to the GP practice at regular intervals, and on an ad hoc basis if required. This will help practices with their annual QOF medication reviews.
- For suitable patients the practice may use an electronic serial prescribing option to authorise treatment for either 24 or 48 weeks on a single prescription. The pharmacist will supply at monthly or two monthly intervals throughout that period. This could significantly decrease the administrative burden for patients, GP practices and pharmacists.

The potential for this new service will be maximised by effective teamworking – especially between pharmacists, GPs and practice managers. This is best achieved at local level and to facilitate this NHS Boards, supported by NHS Education Scotland, will be running local Chronic Medication Service (CMS) awareness sessions.

The details for your local Board's event will be announced soon. CMS implementation resource packs – one for practice managers and one for GPs - will also be sent by NES to each practice this Summer.

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