AIM OF SERVICE

“Managing Your Medicines” is a service commissioned by the Health and Social Care Board. It is a pharmacy based medication review service provided for patients who are vulnerable or at risk. The aim of this service is to:

- Undertake a clinical medication review to optimise treatment
- Educate the patient to improve understanding of the medication prescribed
- Support patients to ensure that both OTC and prescription medicines are used appropriately
- Liaise with other members of the healthcare team in order to agree and implement measures to overcome any problems the patient may be experiencing and/or ensure the most appropriate therapy is being used

The service should assist in achieving safe and cost-effective use of medication, improve adherence and ensure that all measures are implemented to achieve the best possible quality of life for the individual patient. This service is not solely about adherence, nor is it focused on the provision of monitored dosage systems but it is an opportunity for the provision of pharmaceutical care.

PATIENT CRITERIA

The service is designed for patients who are:

1. Taking four or more medications (systemic, non prn) OR
2. Taking any high risk medicines e.g. – Digoxin, warfarin, diuretics, Lithium, methotrexate, phenytion, NSAIDs, insulin, antiplatelets

AND WHO HAVE:

3. Low level of support for managing medicines or
4. Poor prescription compliance/administration compliance (evident from Pharmacy or GP patient records), or
5. Been recently discharged from hospital with a significant medication change

As this is a pharmacy based service patients in care homes are not included

Patients meeting these criteria will be identified by the pharmacist (or referred by other professionals). Following patient consent and notification to their GP, the pharmacist will review the patient’s medicines, identifying any problems and appropriate remedial action. A report will be forwarded to the GP, specifying action points including any requiring GP co-operation. A follow-up interview may be carried out if appropriate to assess outcomes.

REPEAT REVIEW

In the event that a patient experiences a significant change to circumstances - e.g. patient’s condition deteriorates; home support is diminished – a further review may be required. In such circumstances, the pharmacist must contact the Board for prior approval.

GMS CONTRACT

Provision of a medication review through this service can be counted against the GMS Contract requirements for medication review under indicators MM5 and MM9.

If you require further information about this service contact the Pharmacy Service lead of the Health and Social Care Board in your local area.

1. Not all reviews will need a follow-up
2. A second review may be necessitated by a significant change in circumstances and/or medication. A second review should probably start with a full consultation