

DMS Expansion within Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (HPFT)

HPFT provides support for individuals with mental ill health, learning disabilities, and autism in Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Norfolk and Waveney, and Essex.

Starting from January 2, 2024, HPFT will extend the Discharge Medicines Service (DMS) from the current pilot of 6 inpatient wards to 26 inpatient wards. As a result, community pharmacies are expected to see an increase in referrals from HPFT.

Benefits of DMS for individuals with mental health issues, learning disabilities, and autism include:

- Improved communication of medication changes during the transition of care between health sectors.
- Prevention of medication stockpiling and unnecessary supply.
- Reduction of anxieties for service users when obtaining additional medication supplies.
- Provision of medicine management support and medicine advice.
- Increased awareness to service users prescribed high-risk medicines.

Referral criteria for DMS:

All HPFT service users are eligible for DMS referral, provided they consent to participate (or have a best interest decision) and meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Medication changes during admission.
- Use of a compliance aid.
- Physical or intellectual disabilities requiring support with medicines use.
- Specific quantities of medication requested (e.g., overdose risk).
- Prescription of high-risk or critical medication.
- Medication on discharge requiring follow-up (e.g., blood monitoring, dose titration).

Medications such as clozapine and antipsychotic depot medications will be recorded on the referral for information only, HPFT will directly supply/administer such medicines to the service user. The prescribing and supply of all other medications noted on the discharge notification are the responsibility of primary care unless otherwise specified.

Any inquiries regarding discharge notification or medication on discharge should be directed initially to the named referrer. Subsequently, liaise directly with the service user or their advocate if necessary.

Service users under HPFT may require enhanced support such as:

- Restricting supply due to overdose risk.
- Compliance aids for adherence support.
- Supply of specific formulations for dysphagia, common in learning disabilities and dementia.
- Special attention when advising on smoking cessation due to pharmacokinetic effects with certain psychotropic medications.
- Access to easy read medicines information leaflets

For more information on commonly used medications within HPFT, such as antidepressants, antipsychotics, mood stabilizers, and anxiolytic medicines, refer to Choice and Medication at <https://www.choiceandmedication.org/hertfordshire/>.

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