

Section 18 - Self Administration of Medicines By Patients

Where it is expected that a patient will self-administer their own medicines at home, the patient and/or their carer should be encouraged and supported to take an active role in managing their medicines whilst in hospital so as to improve understanding and compliance on discharge. Where patients are to self-administer their medicines at home, this must be able to fit in with their daily lives.

1. Any ward self-medication programme must be approved by the site Chief Nurse and the Head of Pharmacy.
2. The patient's Consultant must be closely involved in the decision to enter the patient into a self-medication programme and annotate the patient's clinical record to this effect before a patient commences on the programme.
3. The self-medication programme must fulfil the following criteria:
 - Contain a documented risk assessment which takes into account the patient, their medication regimen, their treatment plan, the impact of or on other patients within the ward and the ward staff available to support the programme.
 - Support the safe and secure storage of medicines.
 - Educate patients about their medicine regimen and provide them with an understanding of the importance their medication plays in maintaining their health.
 - Provide named nurses/key workers with guidelines on their role as educators, facilitators and patient advocates.
 - Ensure that all statutory and NHS Lanarkshire policies regarding the handling and administration of medicines are met.