

GUIDELINES

YELLOW MEDICATION CARDS

Patients likely to benefit from a medication card

Patients likely to benefit from a medication card include:

- any patient who requests a medication card.
- older patients responsible for their own medications.
- patients enrolled in 'Care Plus'
- patients who:
 - are on regular multiple medications (greater than three)
 - have had their medications altered while in hospital or visiting their doctor
 - require a carer to administer their medications in the patient's home
 - are prescribed complicated regimens, e.g. step-down therapy.

These are guidelines only - assess the situation independently for each patient.

Responsibility for completion

Completion of yellow medication cards is the responsibility of either the prescriber (i.e. GP/consultant/house surgeon) or hospital pharmacist. Community pharmacists are not required to complete the cards except in particular circumstances, which are outlined below.

Practice nurse /District Nurse/ Registered Nurse responsibilities

The Nurse's responsibilities are to:

- ensure that medications written on the yellow card correspond to the prescriptions given to the patient
- advise the patient to discard any outdated cards.

Doctor's / Prescriber's responsibilities

The Doctor/Prescriber's responsibilities are to:

- write medication card (see instructions below) and educate the patient
- amend current medication card when changes have been made to medications
- advise the patient of medication changes.

Community pharmacist's responsibilities

The community pharmacist's responsibilities are to make a correction or complete a yellow card:

- when **the medication card and the prescribed medication do not match**. In this case the community pharmacist must:
 - contact and consult with the prescriber
 - amend the medication card, if required, in accordance with the "Amending Medication Cards" section of these guidelines
- when they are **involved with Pharmacy Review Service/Medication Management process**.

Amending Medication Cards

- Where there are **several amendments to be made, a new card** should be written.
- When a medication is discontinued **or altered**, the entry on the medication card is to be crossed out and a new entry made if appropriate.
- All amendments made to a medication card are to be discussed with the patient and/or the person administering medications.

Writing Medication Cards safely

See page 2 for information on writing medication cards safely.

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Writing Medication Cards- Page 2

1. **PRINT CLEARLY** in blue or black ink.

2. **Always PRINT** the **generic** name of the medication in. If more recognisable to patient by brand/trade name, add this in brackets.

3. Write the **number** of tablets/caps or enter liquid volume.

4. Period of treatment and date of cessation for short course of medication clearly stated in 'special instructions'.

5. **Adverse drug reaction** - write drug(s) responsible and reaction(s) - or a completed adverse drug reaction sticker should be added on the front of the card.

Patient Name: NHI: Allergies: NIL KNOWN

Address: GP:

Date & Initial	Regular Medication GENERIC (Brand name)	Strength	Number of Tablets				Special Instruction	Purpose
			Break Fast	Lunch	Evening Meal	Bed Time		
T.P. 28/9	AMOXYCILLIN (AMOXIL) CAPS	500mg	1		1		WITH FOOD FINISH 3-10-05	ANTIBIOTIC FOR INFECTION
T.P. 28/9	DISCONTINUED BY GP 3-10-05 AMOXYCILLIN (AMOXIL) CAPS	C.D. GENERAL PRACTITIONER 500mg	1		1		WITH FOOD FINISH 3-10-05	ANTIBIOTIC FOR INFECTION
T.P. 28/9	PARACETAMOL (PANADOL) LIQUID	250mg per 5mls	20mls	20mls	20mls		DO NOT TAKE WITH ANY PARACETAMOL CONTAINING PRODUCTS	PAIN RELIEVER
C.D. 3/10	PREDNISONE	2.5mg	2	2	1		WITH FOOD	REDUCE INFLAMMATION

6. Date & initials of person writing medication

7. Example of Medication discontinued: Rules through - write 'discontinued by GP', date, sign and put your title on this line.

8. The strength and form of medication **must correspond** with available preparations.
NB: This is the commonest cause of errors.

9. Any **maximum daily dosage** should be recorded under 'special instructions'.

10. Reason for taking the medication is to be written under 'purpose'.
Use simple language.

- 'When required' and non-prescription medicines should be documented in the appropriate sections
- Once the card is completed the person who wrote the card must sign, date, and put their title on the front of the card. When additions/changes are made, date and initial the entry.
- It is the responsibility of the person writing the medication card to ensure it is correct, at the time of writing.**

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