NHS
Suffolk and
North East Essex
Integrated Care Board

Position Statement on the Prescribing of Appliances in Suffolk

The following conditions apply with the request and prescribing of any appliance:

Initial/new and urgent requests

Due to the urgency of patients requiring their **initial stock**, following an assessment by their specialist clinician it would be acceptable for the assessing clinician to request **first orders** directly through the patients' chosen Pharmacy/Dispensing Appliance Contractor. If there were any uncertainty, it would be advisable to contact the requesting clinician directly to confirm the request.

The request should be promptly followed up in writing to the practice by the requesting clinician. This will ensure patients receive their initial stock in a timely manner and prevent unnecessary delay.

- **New products** must only be initiated following an appliance review by a specialist clinician.
- **The patient's preferred method of supply** of the appliance(s) should be discussed and patient consent obtained at the point of initiation.

Repeat Requests

All repeat requests for prescriptions should be initiated by the patient, the patients' carer or their specialist clinician, direct to the GP practice, UNLESS in exceptional circumstances.

- The patient must be advised on the importance of requesting only those items they actually need at the time of request.
- No appliance should be supplied to the patient in advance of receiving a signed prescription, UNLESS prior authorisation for **emergency stock** has been obtained from the prescriber.
    - If an emergency supply is required, the prescriber must be contacted for confirmation before any product is dispensed. This must be documented in the patients notes.
- IESCCG and WSCCG will not support the use of repeat standing orders to facilitate on-going requests of any appliance.
- Only certain items are required long term and may be put on repeat prescription:
    - Stoma pouches, catheters, drainage bags, valves and sheaths
    - Items requested for long term use by specialist (e.g. accessories, preventative barrier creams)

Dressings are for acute use only and should not be put on repeat prescription (unless recommended by a specialist nurse).

Exceptional circumstances

There may be patients that are housebound or unable to request their repeat prescriptions in the practices' usual method. In these circumstances, it may be necessary for the patient or patients' carer to continue requesting their repeat prescriptions through the pharmacy, dispensing appliance contractor OR where accepted, via telephone to the practice – All requests in this way **must always** be made following a consultation with the patient to confirm appropriate appliance use and to obtain patient consent.

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Appliance Prescriptions

- **Retrospective prescriptions** should not be issued by the prescriber. Prescribers are entitled to refuse to provide a prescription to cover items already supplied ("post supply"). SNEE ICB will support the prescriber's decision NOT to supply a retrospective prescription. **Prescriptions alterations:** SNEE ICB will support the prescriber's decision to alter a prescription to a formulary approved item, and to decline any alterations for items which are non-formulary.
- For all appliances, the exact number of pieces ordered by the prescriber must be dispensed.

Appliances and quantities on prescription should be:

- In line with ICB Appliance Formularies
- For a maximum of
  - TWO WEEKS for wound management appliances, UNLESS approved by a specialist or the medicines management team.
  - ONE MONTH for continence, stoma or tracheostomy products. If in doubt confirm suitable quantity with the patient or specialist.
- Non-formulary requests should only be accepted from NHS specialists in exceptional circumstances, with a completed ICB exception reporting form.

To ensure the patient is offered the most accurate stock availability and timely dispatch of products they may wish to register with a DAC (dispensing contractor) which is aligned with the manufacturer of the majority of the products you are ordering for the patient.

Disposable Items

A reasonable quantity of wipes and disposal bags should be supplied **free of charge by the dispenser**. These are not prescription items hence should not be added to the prescription. The Drug Tariff shows a marker next to those categories of product with which items such as wipes and disposal bags must be supplied.

Useful Contact Details

Suffolk Bladder and Bowel Service: 0300 123 2425

Ipswich and East Suffolk GP Federation Community Stoma Nurses: sgpfed.stomaserviceeast@nhs.net

Ipswich Hospital Trust Stoma Nurses: Ipswichstoma.care@esneft.nhs.uk

West Suffolk Hospital Stoma Nurses: **stomacare@wsh.nhs.uk**

NEE Stoma Care Nurses: colchesterstomacare@esneft.nhs.uk

ICB Medicines Optimisation Appliance Nurses:

sneeicb-ies.medsoptnurses@nhs.net

Patient queries or complaints: Any patient queries or complaints should be directed to:
Patient Advice and Liaison Service 0800 389 6819 or sneeicb.pals@nhs.net