

# Prescribing Support Series: PSS 8

## Prescribing Complex Medication in EPMA

Some medication cannot be easily prescribed in the current version of EPMA. This document guides prescribers on how to approach prescribing of complex medication.

### Key Principles for Prescribing in EPMA:

- 1) *Accurate Patient Identification*: before prescribing anything, ensure that you have selected the correct patient record. Utilise photographic identification if available
- 2) *Up-to-Date Medication History*: take effort to ensure the accuracy of your medication history. The patient is often the most useful historian for their medication use pre-admission (even if this conflicts with how a medicine is prescribed by their GP). There may be no need to prescribe a complex medication if the patient wasn't taking it pre-admission.
- 3) *Avoid over-relying on clinical decision support systems*: such systems may not accurately or correctly advise on the prescribing of complex medication, as the method for prescribing may involve using the EPMA system in a manner it wasn't designed for.
- 4) *If struggling, refer to the [Medicines Optimisation Interactive Guide](#)*: you're likely not the first person to struggle with a complex prescription. Perhaps there is guidance on how to prescribe a particular complex agent within the interactive guide?
- 5) *Communicate medication that was difficult to prescribe in EPMA*: if you encounter a particular medication that you found difficult to prescribe in EPMA, communicate this with the ward team. Verbal, face-to-face communication will help to ensure that a medication is used appropriately where ambiguity is introduced due to system design. Document these verbal discussions in the relevant EPR.
- 6) *Share opportunities to learn*: if you're the first person to struggle with a complex prescription, you're unlikely to be the last. If you've struggled with creating a particular prescription in EPMA, notify Patient Systems via the Trust's IT Customer Portal as it may result in shared learning.

### Remember!

**Precision** and **Vigilance** are our ultimate key objectives when prescribing in EPMA. We share responsibility for prescribing safely, accurately and appropriately for our patients; there will always be room to identify and resolve areas of weakness within the system..

Title: PSS 8 – Prescribing Complex Medication in EPMA

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Contact local pharmacy team or on-call pharmacist for advice on how to prescribe complex medication in EPMA.

NHS  
Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys  
NHS Foundation Trust

### Current Paper Supplementary Charts:

Some medication can only be prescribed safely using paper supplementary charts. The supplementary charts in current use are:

- Variable Dose Insulin.
- Palliative care (not always necessary to use paper supplementary chart but can use palliative charts provided by the local palliative care team).
- Oxygen.

See Medicines Optimisation Interactive Guide for further information

### Prescribing Medication via Freetext Module:

Prescribing complex medication may require the user to prescribe it as a 'Freetext' medicine. This will allow the greatest flexibility that the EPMA system offers in prescribing a particular complex medication. To prescribe a medication as Freetext:

- 1) Log in to EPMA Prescriber and access patient profile.
- 2) Click '+New Prescription', and then click 'Medications.'
- 3) Type in the name of the medication you wish to prescribe, then scroll to the bottom of the list of medicine options following this until you see 'Can't find the medication? Click here to record free text medication.'

1 Prescription Setup

2 Medicine Selection

3 Review Warnings

4 Dose Type

5 Define Prescription

6 Define Instructions

ptvoid(0)

hyoscine hydrobromide

NO CUSTOM PRODUCT(S) FOUND MATCHING 'hyoscine hydrobromide'

5 MEDICATION(S) FOUND MATCHING 'hyoscine hydrobromide' IN DICTIONARY

Generic

hyoscine hydrobromide-Oral

hyoscine hydrobromide-Intramuscular

hyoscine hydrobromide-Intravenous

hyoscine hydrobromide-Subcutaneous

hyoscine hydrobromide-Transdermal

Click here to select alternative route

Can't find the medication? Click here to record free text medication

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