

Reference:	FOI.13203.23
Subject:	Multi-medicine pill pouches
Date of Request:	22 November 2023

Requested:

Could you please answer the following questions:

1. Within your Health Board, where are you using multi medicine pill pouches? E.g., acute hospitals, mental health hospitals, nursing homes, residential care homes, patient's homes.
 - Kindly provide a name and department of this place.
 - Which type of organization is requesting them? E.g., Hospitals, nursing homes, community care providers.
 - Who provides these pouches? E.g., Hospitals, community pharmacies (Please state name & address).

2. Does your Health Board conduct continued care at home visits solely for the purpose of conducting medication adherence prompts?

If so,

- What type of patient are you providing this service for? E.g., Fragility, mental health, Parkinson's disease, epilepsy.
- How many patients require these medication prompt visits per month?
- How long does it take for the staff member/ carer to conduct a patient medication prompt visit?

3. In your Health Board, are you using medical devices or technology to improve medication adherence at home?

If so,

- What type of device/ technology are you using?
- Is this device/ technology used in conjunction with patient medication prompt visits? Or has this reduced the number of medication prompt visits required?
- Are you planning on increasing investment or the number medication adherence solutions available to your local population to improve medicines adherence at home? (Especially for the most vulnerable patients.) If so, how?

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) does not hold all of the information requested as its Pharmacy Department does not use multi medicine pill pouches. Community Pharmacies prepare and issue dosette boxes to aid with a person's medicine regime.

We therefore recommend that you redirect this part of your request to the NHS Community Pharmacies directly, who may be able to help you further with your enquiry.

Contact details of all NHS Community Pharmacies within the UHB's geographical area are available on the UHB's website and can be accessed via the following link:

[All pharmacies - Hywel Dda University Health Board \(nhs.wales\)](https://www.nhs.uk/healthboards/hywel-dda-university-health-board/)

However, the UHB's Mental Health and Learning Disabilities (MH&LD) Pharmacy Team do provide medication in compliance packs, to aid patients taking their medication, where it is deemed necessary.

2. The UHB confirms that its MH&LD Commissioning Team commission packages of care for individuals who require continued support to maintain medication compliance.

These individuals are often subject to Section 117 of the Mental Health Act (MHA), with a range of mental health difficulties and who generally have a history of non-compliance with their medication.

The UHB's MH&LD Commissioning Team commission approximately fifteen (15) packages of care for the sole purpose of conducting medication adherence prompts, with each carer taking approximately 20-30 minutes to conduct the medication prompt visit.

3. The UHB does not utilise technology for the purpose of medicine adherence at home.