

Top Tips for Clinicians

Specialist	Meds Optimisation Team and PCN Pharmacy colleagues
Subject	Prescribing
Date / Review	May 2020 / Review April 2021
Disclaimer	These are intended only as good practice prompts. Use your clinical judgement.
Top Tip 1	<p>Community Pharmacy Home Delivery Service during the Covid-19 (Essential Service)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This places a responsibility on pharmacy contractors to make sure that a home delivery option is available to people at high risk of complications from COVID-19 who are advised to isolate at home for 12 weeks and meet the 'shielding' criteria. This option has to be offered if their prescription items cannot be collected and delivered by a family member, friend, carer or volunteer. These patients are flagged as being in this group on the web version of their Summary Care Record. Add a script note to your prescription: "Shielding patient, please deliver as part of Essential Pharmacy Service" Patients who require delivery as they are vulnerable or self-isolating and have no one who can collect - a new service has been developed in the Bradford district and you should ask the patient to contact the pharmacy and ask for delivery.
Top Tip 2	<p>Improve use of ETP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For those unfamiliar with setting up of ETP – NHS digital tips are available here and this includes how to cancel prescriptions If you still have issues, is the person registered to prescribe at your practice? Contact meds.opt@nhs.net to check Before prescribing, always select the item that looks like it is properly formatted and does not have  Non-ETP product (not DM-D mapped) at the end as this indicates it's not ETP compliant When prescribing injections or items that would normally require some form of administration – UNTICK the "Pers Admin" box to the right hand side of the acute medication dialogue box. This will allow for the item to go via ETP Many issues relate to prescribing of controlled drugs, use an approved formulary will help with this. Please check quantities being prescribed are also appropriate. Have you checked all appropriate patients are on eRD?
Top Tip 3	<p>Supply issues</p> <p>DHSC monthly supply update bulletin is available on IntraDoc here</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing problems for branded generics as well, there may be a need to switch back to generic products where applicable
Top Tip 4	<p>Script issue lengths / early issues - Stick to normal prescription length</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For palliative patients issue the anticipatory medicines about 7 days before they are likely to be required to manage potential stock issues Please do one item per script for anticipatories and a max of 5 ampoules if possible
Questions to	Clinical Top Tips: Top.Tips@bradford.nhs.uk