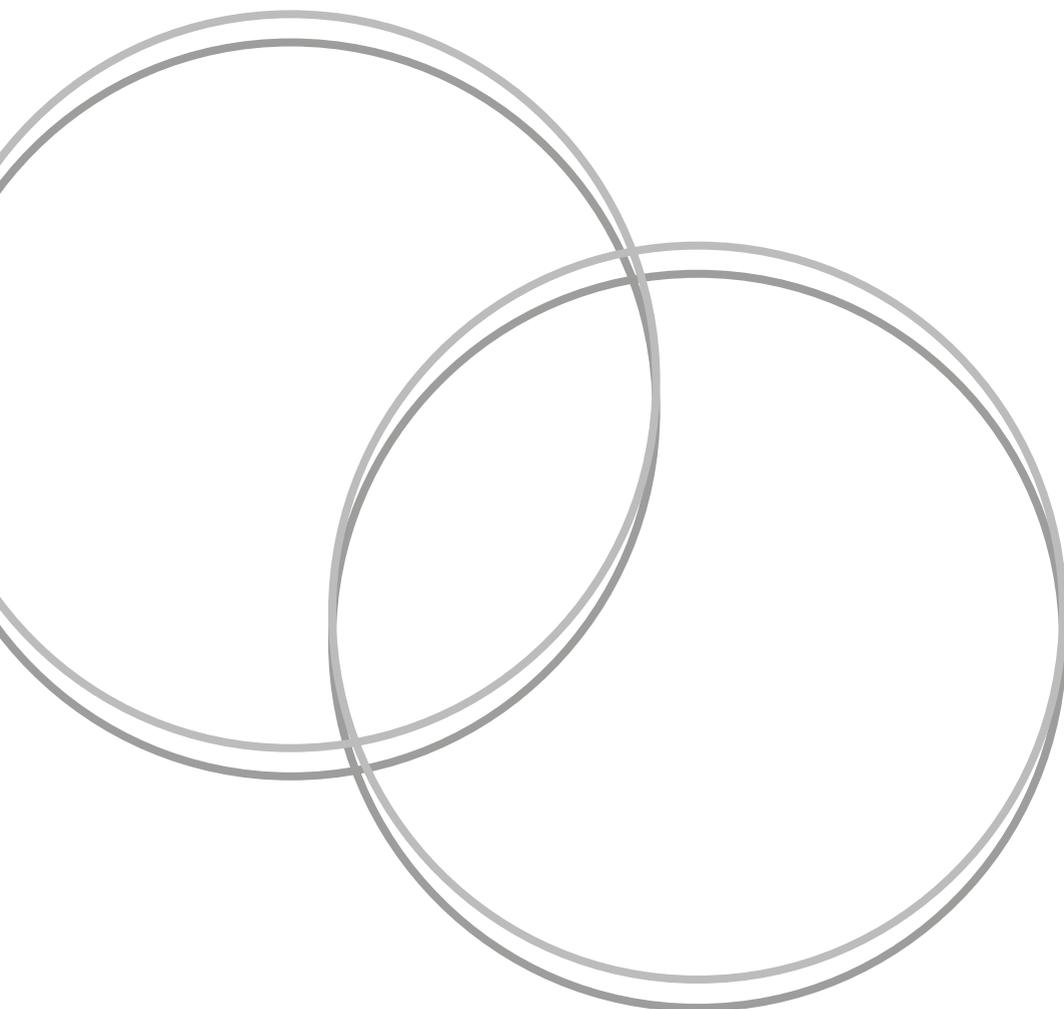




Oxford University Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Discharge Medicines Service

Information for patients



What is the Discharge Medicines Service?

Before leaving the hospital, you can choose to continue part of your care with the Discharge Medicines Service.

Your hospital pharmacy can refer you to a community pharmacy for support with changes to your medicines after you leave the hospital.

The National Health Services Discharge Medicines Service (NHS DMS) is a free NHS provided service. It creates an important link between you and your community pharmacist.

The community pharmacist will invite you to discuss your medicines, answer any questions you may have and provide all of the information you need to help you manage your medicines at home.

How could this service help me?

The service is to ensure better communication of changes made to a patient's medicines whilst in hospital and aims to:

- Improve your understanding of the medicines prescribed and how to take them correctly after being discharged from hospital.
- Explain the changes made to your prescription whilst in hospital.
- Help you to take your medicines correctly and safely after discharge.
- Reduce hospital readmissions.

The Discharge Medicines Service improves the link between hospital, community pharmacists and your GP. Through sharing information, we can support you in the best possible way.

Who can be referred to the Discharge Medicines Service?

The following patients may benefit from referral to the service:

- Patients with several changes to their regular medicines.
- Patients with new medicines since coming into hospital.

- Patients over 65 years of age.
- Patients with medicines in compliance aids/blister packs.
- Patients with any medicines that require additional monitoring such as insulin, blood-thinning medicines, or strong painkillers.
- Patients with long-term medicines.

How can I be referred to the service?

A member of the hospital pharmacy team will identify if you may benefit from the service and discuss this with you and/or your carer. You will need to nominate a community pharmacy that will provide the service. The pharmacist will record your chosen community pharmacy on your hospital patient record.

When you are ready to be discharged from hospital, the hospital pharmacy team will assess your medicines to confirm if you would benefit from this service. If so, they will refer your discharge prescription to your chosen community pharmacy.

How does the service work?

Using the information in the referral, your chosen community pharmacist will compare your medicines at discharge to those you were taking before you went into hospital.

When your next prescription is issued by the GP, the community pharmacist will check it matches the medicines you should be taking and following the right instructions.

An appointment with your community pharmacist, yourself and/or your carer will help to ensure that you understand the medicines you should be taking and provide the opportunity to ask any questions.

If you have any questions about your medicines before you have been contacted by your community pharmacy, please speak to them directly. If you would like further advice about your medicines, please call the Hospital Pharmacy Patient Medicines Helpline on: **01865 228 906** (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm).

If you have a compliment, complaint, or concern about the care you have received from the hospital please contact our Patient Advice and Liaison service (PALS) team on: **01865 221 473** or PALS@ouh.nhs.uk

Further information

If you would like an interpreter, please speak to the department where you are being seen.

Please also tell them if you would like this information in another format, such as:

- Easy Read
- large print
- braille
- audio
- electronic
- another language.

We have tried to make the information in this leaflet meet your needs. If it does not meet your individual needs or situation, please speak to your healthcare team. They are happy to help.

Authors: Discharge Medicines Service Project Support
(Medicines information and Governance Pharmacy Technician)
Reviewed by: Lead Pharmacy & Medications Governance Pharmacist
& Divisional Pharmacist for Clinical Support Services

November 2023

Review: November 2026

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
www.ouh.nhs.uk/information



Making a difference across our hospitals

charity@ouh.nhs.uk | 01865 743 444 | hospitalcharity.co.uk

OXFORD HOSPITALS CHARITY (REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1175809)

