

OPUS MEDICINES UPDATE

Guidance on Original Pack Dispensing

From 1 January 2025, community pharmacists can dispense original packs of medicines, rather than the exact quantity prescribed.

For example, if a prescription is written for 30 tablets but the original pack size is 28, then a pharmacy might give you one original pack of 28 tablets, instead of the 30 prescribed.

What Do I Need to Do?

1. When medicines are received into the service, make sure you check the exact quantity received as this may not be what was prescribed or what has previously been received.
2. You may need to adjust your ordering processes or timings to reflect these changes.
3. Where people you support manage their own medicines, inform them that there may be changes to the exact quantities received, so they can effectively manage their own stock.

Do You Support a Person with Anaphylaxis?

The Emerade® brand of adrenaline auto-injector has now been discontinued.

What Do I Need to Do?

1. Check which brands of adrenaline auto-injector the people you support are prescribed.
2. If you support anyone who currently uses an Emerade® adrenaline auto-injector then contact your local pharmacy for information on what to do next.



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Do You Support a Person with Swallowing Difficulties?

The Specialist Pharmacy Service have published an update on thickening liquid medicines for people who have swallowing difficulties.

The new update advises that thickening liquid medicines should only be undertaken if there is no other option available.

What Do I Need to Do?

If you are currently thickening a person's medicine, contact the person's GP to see if this is still appropriate.

If it is appropriate to thicken a person's medicine, you must:

1. Continue to follow the Swallowing Guidelines/ SALT Recommendations from the person's Speech and Language Therapist (SALT) when thickening food, drinks and/or medicines.
2. Ensure people attend their medicines reviews and SALT reviews.
3. Contact the person's GP/ SALT team if you have any questions or queries.

Check Out Our Dysphagia Online Workbook!

If you or your team support a person with a swallowing difficulty, our new online workbook provides easy-to-follow information on all aspects of supporting a person with dysphagia, including:

- food/ drink texture modification,
- following a person's Swallowing Guideline
- your role in supporting a person with dysphagia.

Visit our website or scan the QR code to find out more!

Get in touch today!

Contact the lovely Amy and Ruth at OPUS HQ to discuss how OPUS can support your team with all aspects of medicines training and competency assessment – they'd love to hear from you.

 **0333 939 0053**

 **info@opuspharmserve.com**

 **opuspharmserve.com**