

Discharge Medicine Service (DMS) is an **essential service** aimed to reduce the risk of avoidable medication-related harm associated with hospital discharge. Contractors must be set up to provide this service, ensure team members are competent to deliver the service and have a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the service in place. **Referrals will be received via PharmOutcomes (PO)** and the claim for each stage submitted on Manage Your Service (MYS) by 5th of the following month.

It is a **three stage process** for which part-payment can be made per stage in the specific situations of patient moving area or being uncontactable as detailed in The Drug Tariff (1) Actions required at each stage are further detailed in The Toolkit (2) and Guidance on NHS Regulations 2020(3).

Stage 1-Referral Received

£12

Flag NMS here

Stage 2 – First Post Discharge Rx

£11

Sign up NMS at first patient contact

Stage 3 –The Patient

£12

- DMS referral sent from hospital to the patient's pharmacy via PO.
- Check for clinical information and actions required in referral on PO.

KEY

- Print the attached discharge letter PDF on referral to assist.
- Compare medication and notes before and post discharge, using SCR and PMR.
- Contact the hospital and/or surgery if anything needs to be addressed.
- Check for outstanding scripts on EPS and those awaiting collection and manage appropriately.
- Patient is clearly highlighted as DMS to enable Stage 2

- The first post discharge script arrives from doctor. Complete on PO.

KEY

- Check prescribed medication is in line with discharge medication.
- Contact general practice if any issues are found. Complex changes may require Structured Medication Review by the patient's general practice.
- Patient is clearly highlighted as DMS to enable Stage 3

- Discussion with patients (or carer) to ensure they understand their medicines regime including any changes made while in hospital.
- This should occur when the patient/carer is due to collect or have medication delivered.

KEY

- Can be done virtually if required.
- Information that is relevant to general practice/PCN pharmacists should be communicated to them appropriately.
- Offer to dispose of any medications that are no longer required.
- This is the only step that must involve contacting the patient**

Pharmacist

Stage 1:
MUST Accept
within 3 working days and complete with reasonable promptness

Stage 2:
1-2 weeks post discharge in spec.
1-10 weeks in practice

Pharmacist/
Reg Tech

Stage 3:
Arranged at time of stage 2

References

1. [NHS Electronic Drug Tariff](#) Part VIA. Payment for Essential Services. 14 NHS Discharge Medicine Service (England only)
2. [Toolkit for pharmacy staff in community, primary and secondary care](#)
3. [Guidance on the National Health Service \(Charges and Pharmaceutical and Local Pharmaceutical Services\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020 | NHS](#)

