



## 'Reducing needless medication errors' workstream

### Green 'Patient's Own Drugs' bag

The Green POD bag scheme is part of the collaboration across NHS South Central to improve medicines reconciliation by supporting the safe transfer of patient's medicines between care settings using easily identifiable Green 'Patients Own Drug' bags.

#### Who

Patients are encouraged to take all their own medicines in their original containers from home into hospital, to clinics and to GPs and pharmacies when they have a medicines review. The medicines should include those which have been prescribed and bought such as Over-The Counter remedies and herbal products.

The Green POD Bags keep all the patients medicines together in a readily identifiable container. Patients are given the bag at their pre-admission assessment or with their appointment letter. For emergency admissions green POD bags are carried by ambulance staff who collect all medicines in the patient's home.

Green POD bags are also supplied at discharge

#### Why

The scheme aims are to improve patient safety and satisfaction by:

- reducing medicine related errors by increasing the number of complete medicine histories;
- reducing hospital discharge delays by encouraging the use of 'Patients Own Drugs';
- reducing waste by reducing the resupply of medicines
- reducing hoarding of medicines at home
- reducing omitted and delayed doses
- allowing patients to maintain the familiarity of their own medicines
- reducing confusion

The patients experience is improved through better communication by:

- ensuring the patient's medicines are always moved along the care pathway with the patient;
- ensuring medicines changes are shared with care providers;
- ensuring medicines prescribed on admission correspond to those that the patient was taking before admission;
- enabling healthcare staff to understand how patients manage their medicines at home

**For more information contact**

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