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Suite 5E Lakeland Business Park  
Lamplugh Road, Cockermouth  
Cumbria CA13 0QT

Tel: 01900 821703

info@communitypharmacycumbria.org

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### **Disability Discrimination Act 1995; Equality Act 2010; and Monitored dosage system (MDS)**

Dear Health Care Professional,

We have recently been receiving enquires regarding for MDS/ Dosette Boxes / Blister packs supplied by community pharmacies.

Please can we highlight the following-

A pharmacy is required to make a reasonable adjustment for patients who qualify under the [Equality Act 2010](#) (Historically the Disability Discrimination Act 1995). A person is regarded as being disabled, if they have a physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial adverse effect on that person's ability to carry out day to day activities. Additionally, the impairment must be either long term (that is, has lasted more than 12 months) or is likely to last more than 12 months or for the rest of the person's life (for example multiple sclerosis). It is worth noting that the person who makes this decision is the **dispensing pharmacist** in line with the Equality Act (2010) for a patient to self-administer their medication. For patients who do qualify, a reasonable adjustment should be made in order to ensure they are able to utilise their medication correctly.

Reasonable adjustments include (but not limited to):

- The use of large print labels
- Providing a patient with non click lock caps
- Providing devices to make inhalers and dropper bottles easier to use
- Medication Reminder (MAR) charts
- Dosette boxes
- Having a carer helping the patient with their medication

Many patients who receive a dosette box **do not** qualify under the Equality Act and therefore our contractors have been historically providing a dosette box as a private transaction, free of charge. In these situations, it would therefore be reasonable to charge either the patient, the carer, social services or the CCG a fee for the supply of medication in a dosette box.

It is at the discretion of each contractor whether to charge and how much to charge for the supply of medication in a dosette box so please contact the individual pharmacies directly for further information.

Kind regards,

*Lucy*

Lucy Wild

Chair Community Pharmacy Cumbria.