



## Primary Care Shared Connection

July 2023

Depo Provera (repeat dispensing)

The ICB supports practices by analysing themes from Significant Events. On some occasions, themes or single events are identified that require prompt sharing to all Primary Care practices to enable learning.

### Particular Interest

All Staff    Practice Managers    GP's    Nursing    AHP    Clerical    Other

### Summary

- Several prescribers issued Depo Provera on repeat without noticing and/or correcting the prescription to acute only
- This resulted in a patient self-administering their contraceptive injection for 2 years
- Previously, the patient received her injection regularly at the practice, however the patient requested a repeat of all her regular medications
- During prescribing all medications including Depo were changed to repeat dispensing
- The patient was therefore able to request the Depo Provera, collect from the pharmacy and self-administer for a substantial period unchallenged.

### Impact

- Patient not receiving regular monitoring for BP, weight, and irregular bleeding as per [FSRH guidelines](#).
- Missed opportunities to identify concerns with the medication
- Potential for Depo Provera to be given outside the recommended dosing schedule, leaving the patient at risk of unwanted pregnancy
- Patient not given any education regarding IM injection techniques. Potential for injury to patient when self-administering. Safe Sharps disposal - no sharps bin was issued
- Community pharmacy involvement with the supply of medication.

### Identified learning

- Prescribers have a professional accountability to review prescriptions before signing
- Practices must ensure a process for the safe handling of repeat medicines requests and evidence of structured medicines reviews for patients on repeat medicines is in place. [\(CQC\)](#).
- Community pharmacy awareness of medications administered at practices only.
- Patient education must be provided at the initial depo appointment

### Suggested actions

- Searches run for injectable medications and how they are being prescribed and administered. CQC searches information [here](#)
- Practice pharmacist to audit Depo Provera prescriptions, ensuring acute issue only. CQC prescribing information [here](#)
- Review medication reviews and prescription issuing processes to ensure patient safety
- Practice system required to ensure patients approaching the end of the repeat period should have a plan in place to ensure that appropriate monitoring has been recorded in the notes within a reasonable timeframe in relation to the medication review.

### For further information and support contact:

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