



MAR Chart Completion

07 August 2018

We have had a number of queries on a GP's responsibility to complete Medication Administration Record (MAR) Charts.

The BMA position is:

There is no need for a GP to complete a community drug chart (MAR Chart) as a prescription is all that is legally required for a nurse or other community worker to administer medication.

We believe that there is widespread confusion about the role of a medicines administration record. Many people believe that this is an instruction for the medication to be administered, whereas it ought to be regarded as a record that a medication has been given, with the instruction being provided by the information provided by the prescriber on the prescription and recorded by the dispenser on the original packet. We do have concerns that many organisations that use MAR charts use them inappropriately as an authority to administer, rather than as a record of that administration.

If the employer of the community nurse (or other worker) requires any additional documentation then the responsibility for completing that resides with the organisation whose staff are using it, compiled from the information provided by the prescriber, and completed by staff trained in the process. The drugs themselves should be given according to the prescription as recoded on the original packet, with only the fact that it was given (or not) entered on the MAR chart.

Derby and Derbyshire Local Medical Committee

