**A P P E N D I X 1**

**Sample text for pharmacies to use with carers**

*<Presented on pharmacy letterhead >*

Dear <name>

**Use of Multi-compartment dispensing systems – (MCA/MDS)**

**(Sometimes called MDS/Dosette boxes or Blister Packs.)**

Over time there has been a move towards using more MDS/MCA packs filled by the community pharmacy. These may have some advantages, but they can have been associated with many problems and safety issues too. There is also very limited evidence supporting patient benefit.

Dispensing of medicines into MDS/MCA is only funded by the NHS in very limited circumstances, when patients with a long-term disability patients are managing their own medicines without any support from a professional or personal carer, where the medicines are stable outside the manufacturer’s packaging and when they have a specific, assessed need that can only be met by use of MDS/MCA.

There is no NHS funding for MDS where medicines are prompted or administered by a paid carer, and there are no governance arrangements in place to support this.

Guidance from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), The Royal Pharmaceutical Society, and others, such as the CQC says that carers must be trained to administer medicines, and that medicines must be supplied in original packaging with clear and simple instructions on the label that can easily be understood. This is reflected in the medication policy that the Local Authority has shared with social care providers.

We will be following this guidance and supplying medicines in the most suitable packaging according to relevant legislation and our pharmacist’s professional opinion.

Please feel free to discuss this with our pharmacist and share with your employer if necessary.

Yours sincerely

<Enter pharmacist details>