

Introduction. Despite concerns¹ about the lack of evidence for their effectiveness and the risks of their use, many people have medicines repackaged in multi-compartment compliance aids (MCAs). These storage devices provide variable storage conditions in terms of protection from light and moisture leading to uncertainties about the stability of medicines once removed from the manufacturers' packaging. This leaves many pharmacists and pharmacy technicians with a practical, professional dilemma of trying to make decisions about the impact of repackaging solid dose forms into MCAs whilst at the same time trying to meet the needs of their patients. Recognising the problem, not least from the numbers of enquiries received by the network, UKMi have developed a searchable database of information to support the appropriate use of MCAs in practice.

Approach to developing the database

- To develop a pragmatic tool to supplement RPS Guidance and support professional decisions based on patient characteristics
- To base advice on available information and therapeutic considerations
- To develop a web-based, searchable, open access system



Drug Name	Trade Name	Manufacturer	Form	Theoretical Concerns	UKMi Recommendation	Notes	Review Date
Handifenmethamide and Potassium	Handifen K	Cadilahead Pharmaceuticals Ltd	Tablets 2.5mg/8.4mmol	None	AS	Store in airtight container.	12/03/2013
Chlorthalidone	Chlorthalidone	Lundbeck Ltd	Tablets 50mg, 20mg, 40mg	No special precautions for storage	AS	No special precautions for storage.	01/03/2013
Enalapril maleate	Enalapril	Hexachem Pharmaceuticals Ltd	Tablets 5mg, 20mg, 10mg	May hydrolyse at high temperature and in the presence of moisture.	AS	Unsuitable.	15/03/2013
Urticaria	Urticaria	Sanofi Laboratories Ltd	Tablets 1mg, 5mg, 10mg	Protect from moisture. Protect from light. Due to the hygroscopic nature of the tablets, maximum 8 days after opening in a MCA.	AS	Protect from light. Protect from moisture.	15/11/2012
Lansoprazole	Lansoprazole	Teva UK Ltd	Tablets 30mg, 15mg	None	AS	Airtight container recommended.	14/02/2013

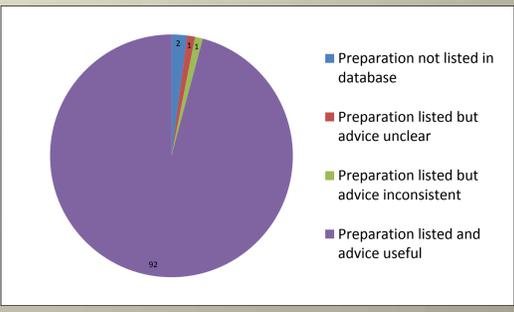
- What is does**
- Makes recommendations on lead brands and some generics based on
 - Physicochemical characteristics
 - Manufacturers' data where available
 - Published data where available
 - Lists about 1000 products in the database
- What it doesn't do**
- It does not endorse the routine use of MCAs
 - It does not distinguish between different types of MCA
- Professional judgement**
- Professional judgement is required to put any of recommendations into practice
 - Take account of relevant organisational policies and procedures,
 - Address the patient's characteristics,
 - Consider the complexity of the dose regime (e.g. irregular dosing or dose titrations),
 - Assess storage and transport considerations,
 - Use measures to mitigate against factors that may affect stability e.g. heat and light.

UKMi Recommendation	Key
Green 1	Stability data indicates that the drug is suitable for CAs and there are no theoretical concerns with the product.
Green 2	No stability data is available, but manufacturer suggests it is suitable for use in CAs.
AS	Stability data is available in an alternative container (not CAs) that may be extrapolated to support storage in CAs.
AS	No stability data is available, the manufacturer does not, or cannot recommend use in CAs but there are no theoretical concerns with the product.
AS	No stability data is available. There are theoretical concerns with use in CAs, which may be mitigated by risk minimisation.
Red 1	Stability data indicates that the drug is not suitable for CAs.
Red 2	Drug is not suitable for CAs due to theoretical reasons that cannot be mitigated.

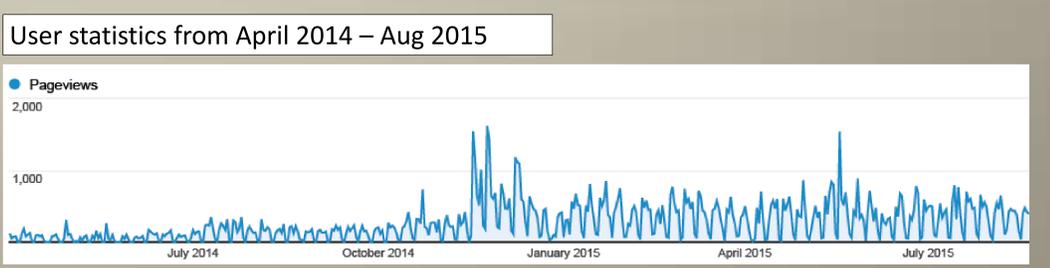
Survey of Version 2 (42 responses)

- 83% found the database "very useful" or "useful"
- 87% found the presentation and style of the database "very good" or "good"
- 85% reported that using that database had not impacted on the numbers of devices filled

Analysis of 96 enquiries made by 30 users (version 2)



Version 1	Version 2	Version 3
Password access Piloted Summer 2013 MI Pharmacists	Password Access Sept13-Sept 14 MI, Hospital Dispensaries, Community Pharmacies	Open Access October 2014



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Reference
1. Royal Pharmaceutical Society 2013. Improving patient outcomes. The better use of multi-compartment compliance aids