

Sophie Hibburd

From: Dr. Tridiv Madhok
Sent: Friday, 13 September 2013 8:27 AM
To: Sophie Hibburd
Subject: Starter packs

Dear colleagues,

I am a GP working in an AMS. I can only speak of my experience and I have found starter packs very useful in getting some patients onto medications, simply because some of my patient do not want to buy medications and others can not afford to buy them. I find starter packs particularly useful where I want to start some one on, say an anti-hypertensive medicine and gauge it's response for a week or two and then up-titrate the dose. Also being in a remote area, occasionally having starter packs has actually helped some patients continue their medication until the local pharmacy has got the supply in. One example is Spiriva. I found that a large proportion of my COPD were not using Spiriva that I had prescribed to them. On checking with the local pharmacist, I found out that most patients found the cost of Spiriva handihalers (which has to be bought separately) a big disincentive. The drug company had given me some handihalers for patient use, which I handed out to patients. Only the ones that were given handihalers from the clinic continued using Spiriva. The handihalers in our area are now provided by the Medicare local free of cost to all ATSI COPD patients who have a current GP Management Plan.

I do not believe having starter packs at hand influences my choice of prescription medicines in anyway. I neither accept any personal financial or non financial benefits from any of the pharmaceutical companies nor do I endorse one product over another. My choice is strictly guided by treatment guidelines and patient interests.

Kind regards,

Dr Tridiv Madhok
General Practitioner
St. George Qld

Sent from my iPad