

Prescribing Tip for Information

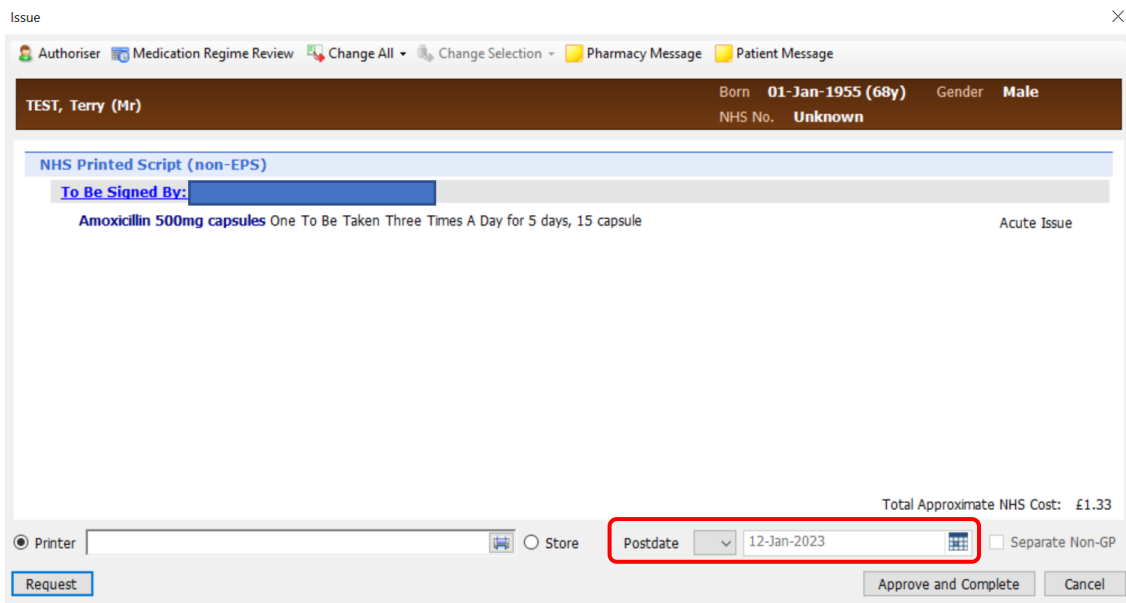
[Back-up antibiotic prescribing: How to post-date a prescription](#)

[NICE quality statement](#) advises that back-up (delayed/deferred) antibiotic prescribing can be used when there is clinical uncertainty about whether a condition is self-limiting or likely to deteriorate. For uncomplicated patients with simple infections, it offers clinicians an alternative to immediate antibiotic prescribing, encourages self-management as a first step but allows the patients to access antibiotic medication if the condition gets worse.

[How To Post-date a Prescription on EMIS Web](#)

One of the suggested methods of issuing a back-up (delayed) prescription is to issue a post-dated prescription.

- At the point of issuing a prescription on the **Issue screen**, you have the post-date option which is displayed at the bottom right of the ‘Issue screen’:



- Click the small black arrow on the “Postdate” button, and then, from the list, select the number of prescriptions you want to post date – in this circumstance the number will be ONE prescription.

It is important to remember: This is the number of prescriptions, **NOT** the number of days



- Next, click the calendar icon to select the required date. The date you select is the earliest time that the patient can collect the antibiotic.



- To issue the medication with post-dated prescription, click **Approve and Complete**.
- Code your treatment choice. Free type and select ‘deferred antibiotic therapy’ or use the appropriate SNOMED code

[Back-up and delayed antibiotic prescription TARGET webinar](#) provides an excellent summary of the evidence and how this can be delivered within practices. For more details regarding back up antibiotics see [TARGET toolkit back-up antibiotic prescribing](#). Key points include patient advice on being **specific regarding number of days to wait and safety netting advice**. [Patient information leaflets](#) are available to aid this.