



Appendix B: Caveats associated with oral treatment duration calculations

If a patient has a dose reduction mid-cycle, and takes a smaller amount of their current prescription, we will have no way of knowing this has occurred unless the consultant enters this as an outcome of their regimen.

The methods described in this document are designed to assess how much oral SACT was prescribed to a patient, rather than the amount which was taken by the patient. If a patient stops taking their prescription prior to completion, we would only capture this information if the consultant submits a SACT regimen outcome summary that the patient has stopped their treatment. When a consultant enters an outcome that the patient has finished treatment early, this will override the typical calculations for treatment duration. If a consultant submits the outcome summary in a SACT submission subsequent to the last treatment administration of the regimen, we will not receive this data. We are piloting an outcomes extract to capture outcomes information which is submitted at a later date. Completeness of these outcomes is poor, and therefore it is likely that we are missing a significant amount of information. It is also possible that a patient discontinues their prescription without informing the consultant or clinical team caring for them. In these instances, we have no way of gathering this information.

If a consultant enters more than 1 prescription on a single day (eg 3 prescriptions of a course of 28 tablets) and does not alter the 'SACT administration date' to reflect that it is anticipated that these will be taken over a period of 3 months, the SACT database automatically deletes 2 of these entries (if they are identical), as it considers them duplicates.