

## Savings in Pharmacy Service Packaging



Boots Monitored Dosage Service is provided for care homes, pharmacies and health care providers. The system prepares care home residents' medication in advance, saving valuable time and making drug rounds easy to manage. Around 340 of our stores across the country currently provide this service.

The packaging used to provide the Monitored Dosage Service has now been redesigned with the aim of reducing material usage, and packaging waste.

The original blister packs were based on PVC sheet that was approximately 0.275 mm thick. The Quality & CSR team has designed a new improved blister that was more user-friendly. In addition the plastic was reduced in thickness to 0.175 mm generating considerable waste savings.

At the same time the opportunity was taken to replace the PVC with APET (amorphous polyethylene terephthalate). Typical annual packaging weight saved was 30 tonnes for the shallow blisters and 10 tonnes for the deeper blisters, generating a total reduction of approximately 40 tonnes of Plastic.

A pilot study took place in a selected number of stores to ensure that the new blisters were fit for purpose. The trial involved feedback from both the store operatives and the final consumers. Following the success, the new packaging was rolled-out on a nationwide basis. These changes have not only reduced waste but have resulted in improved overall quality, especially important in the case of medicinal systems.

Further improvements are under development, which should enhance the resource efficiency of this service.