

Prescriptions

1. Background information
2. Improvements to our service
3. Options for repeat prescriptions
4. Help us to help you
5. Wastage



Page 1

1. Background information

The NHS in England dispenses about 2.7 million items of medication per day. This equates to about 19 items per person per year. About 50% of women and 43% of men take one or more medications regularly.

About 45% of all medications are prescribed to patients aged 65 or more.

The cost of medications in England is about £10 billion per year or approximately 8% of the NHS annual budget.

In one study 50% of patients admitted to not taking their medication as they are prescribed.

The medications you have been prescribed are more likely to be effective if you follow your GP's or Pharmacist's exact instructions on when and how to take them.

Not taking your medication as prescribed can increase the risk of hospital admission and this will often result in poorer outcomes.

Repeat prescribing is the traditional method of general practice prescribing. It involves prescribing regularly needed medicines to a patient that they have used before and can be renewed by the GP without the patient needing to be present.

Pharmacy Stamp	Age	Title, Forename, Surname & Address
9	28	Anthony Smith
	D.O.B	1 New Road
	01.09.1986	Oxford
		OX20 7BB
		NHS Number 1234 5678 999
Please don't stamp over age field Number of days' treatment N.B. Ensure dose is stated		
Endorsements		
7	6	Simvastatin 40mg tablets
		ON
		2x28
Signature of Prescriber		
	3	Date
		05.09.2014
For dispenser No. of prescs. on form		
8		*Matthew Smith * 877342
		*The Health Centre
		*Park Avenue
		*Oxford
		*OX6 1HY
NHS 123 456 78901		FP10SS8888

If you have a question about your medication talk to your GP or a Pharmacist

Or look at: <http://www.npa.co.uk/askyourpharmacist>

Only order the medications that you need

- Please let your GP or Pharmacist know if you've stopped taking any of your medicines.
- Check what medicines you still have at home before re-ordering.
- Discuss your medication with your GP or Pharmacist on a regular basis.
- Think carefully before ticking all the boxes on your repeat prescription forms and only tick those you really need.
- If you don't need the medicine please don't order it! If you need the medicine in the future you can still request it.
- If you need to go into hospital, please remember to take all your medicines with you in a clearly marked bag.
- Following a hospital admission it is not uncommon for your medications to be changed, they may be stopped, new ones added, or doses changed. Ensure that you have a record of the changes and tell your Pharmacist. When you have a new prescription following any changes, take extra care to ensure these changes have been reflected in the medicines you're given.

Please also remember that your medicines are prescribed only for you; it's not safe to share them with anyone else.



Prescription symbol

Rx

This has been used since 1926

It is Latin for recipe

Every little bit helps

By doing your part and only ordering what you need you are helping to reduce the cost of wasted medicines, which means these savings could be put towards other health services.

Medications thrown away



It is estimated that over £300 million per year is wasted because patients order medicines that they never use and therefore are thrown away.

This money would fund:

- 200 new GP Surgeries or
- 11,000 more community nurses or
- 86,000 more hip replacements
- 20,000 more treatments for patients with breast cancer or
- 300,000 more cataract operations.
- 315,000 more drug treatments for Alzheimer's

What have we done to improve our service to you?

As a practice we issue over 200,000 prescriptions at a cost of about £2.5 million per year.

The practice always tries hard to ensure prescriptions are turned round in a timely fashion but realises recently that we have struggled to achieve this.

Action we have taken:

- Employed extra staff
- To have two dedicated receptionists whose sole role is repeat prescribing.
- Launched an electronic prescribing option
- Meeting with local Pharmacists to resolve problems

How can you order a repeat prescription?

1. Via the surgery – using a written request
2. Via your Pharmacy
3. Online request
4. Electronic prescription service (EPS)

1. Via the surgery – a written request

This is the most commonly used method and can be done using the right hand side of the prescription or by writing a list of medication needed.

HELP US TO HELP YOU

Please only order medication that you need. It would be helpful if you ordered your medication in one go as needed, instead of asking for individual items between regular requests.

Please allow us sufficient time to process your request.

We do not accept telephone requests for prescriptions as this can lead to errors.

2. Via the Pharmacy

Some patients will submit a written request to their Pharmacy and then leave it up to them to contact the practice to obtain a further prescription.

HELP US TO HELP YOU

Only request medication you need. If you have a concern about one of your medications, discuss this with the Pharmacist.

If you have taken a decision to stop taking a medication, let your GP know, they may wish to discuss this choice with you, please do not keep ordering medication you are not taking.

3. Online request

If you use the Internet then you may find this method of requesting prescriptions helpful.

You will need to register with SystmOnline to access the online prescription service. This service is linked to the clinical system; this means any medication that has been authorised by a doctor to be repeated will be presented to you in a list similar to that on the right hand side of your printed repeat prescription. The same username and password for this service allows online booking of appointments. If you are already signed up to the online appointments service your username and password remain the same and you can order repeat medication through this service now.

More information available:

<http://www.arnewoodpractice.nhs.uk/prescriptions1.asp>

4. Electronic Prescription Service



This is often called EPS and is now available in most general practices.

EPS is reliable, secure and confidential. Your electronic prescription will be seen by the same people in GP practices, pharmacies and NHS prescription payment and fraud agencies that see your paper prescription now.

If you collect repeat prescriptions you will not have to visit your GP practice just to pick up your paper prescription. Instead, your GP will send the prescription electronically to the place you choose, **saving you time.**

The prescription is an electronic message so there is **no paper prescription to lose.**

You will have **more choice** about where to get your medicines from because they can be collected from a pharmacy **near to where you live, work or shop.**

If the prescription needs to be cancelled the GP can **electronically cancel and issue a new prescription** without you having to return to the practice – **saving you extra trips.**

You may not have to wait as long at the pharmacy as your repeat prescriptions can be made ready before you arrive.

You can get all these benefits if you:

- *have a stable condition*
- *don't want to go to your GP practice every time to collect your repeat prescription*
- *collect your medicines from the same place most of the time*
- *use a prescription collection service*