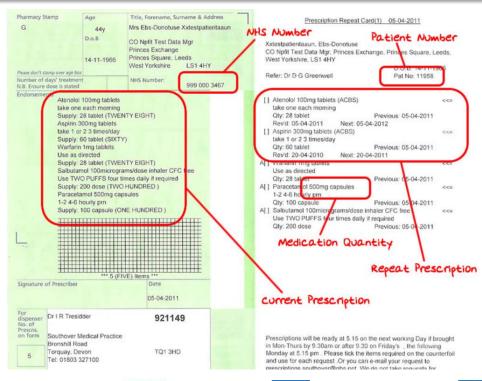
Changes to Repeat Prescription Ordering in Tees Valley and County Durham CCGs













Changes to Repeat Prescription Ordering in Tees Valley and County Durham CCGs

Repeat prescriptions

- Many patients have a 'repeat prescription' meaning that they can regularly receive certain medication without having to see their doctor each time.
- Some people order these repeat prescriptions themselves.
- Others choose to use a pharmacy or dispensing company to order medicines on their behalf

Repeat Prescription Volumes

- Represents 60 75% of all prescriptions written by GPs and 80% of prescribing costs
- £163 million per year across 5 Tees Valley and County Durham CCGs

Community Pharmacy Managed Repeat Ordering Services (Managed Repeats)

- Non-NHS service
- Provided by some community pharmacy
- Not supported by national guidance
- A good managed repeat ordering service requires excellent communication between the pharmacy, the practice and the patient

Community Pharmacy Managed Repeat Ordering Services (Managed Repeats)

Across 5 Tees Valley and County Durham CCGs we are planning on Cessation of 'managed repeats'

GP practices will no longer accept repeat medication requests from community pharmacy except for requests for pre-agreed identified patients.

Special arrangements will be made for patients who are not able to order their repeat medications themselves.

Who does this affect?

 The repeat prescription ordering scheme only affects patients who have their medication ordered for them by their pharmacy or a dispensing company.

 It does not affect anyone who already orders their own repeat prescriptions directly from their practice.

Ordering repeat medications in the future

If you are affected by the new system for ordering repeat prescriptions you can choose to order your repeat prescriptions in a number of different ways:-

- Online from your GP practice— if you are not already registered for patient online, speak to the practice.
- Handing in the white, tear off part of your repeat prescription to the practice, identifying which medicines you require.
- <u>Electronic Repeat Dispensing</u> is a process that allows a patient to obtain repeated supplies of their medication or appliances without the need for the prescriber to hand sign authorised repeat prescriptions each time. The GP authorises up to 12 months of medication and you only visit the pharmacy.

Why have we making this change?

Under the old system, some patients built up a stock of unused medicines. For example:

- a nurse found 7,000 paracetamol tablets in one patient's house
- a patient returned over £5000 worth of medicines to a GP Practice when they had a medication review that the pharmacy had sent month on month

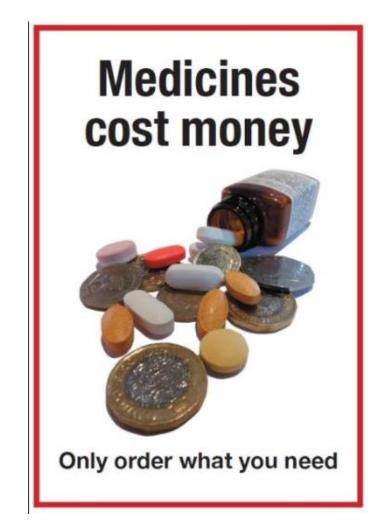
Why have we making this change?

- Do you know that any unused medicines returned to your community pharmacy cannot be reused – they have to be destroyed?
- This change will improve medicines safety and reduce the large amount of wasted medications in our area, estimated to cost the local NHS across Durham and Tees Valley at least £8 million each year.



Why have we making this change?

- Remember Don't tick every box on your repeat prescription if you don't need every item.
- You will still be able to order these medicines in the future.





If you do not have on-line access, please contact Reception who can arrange this for you.