

## Acute Prescriptions

Acute prescriptions are medicines that have been issued by the GP but not added to your repeat prescription records. This can be for new medication issued for a trial period and will require a review visit with your GP prior to being added onto your repeat prescription records. Or it can be a single prescription for medication issued on a one off basis, i.e. A course of antibiotics to treat a bacterial infection.

Acute prescriptions are usually given to you by the GP during a consultation or left at reception for you to collect following a telephone consultation.

## Items no longer required

You may have items on your repeat prescription slip that you no longer require. Please let your GP know so that any unneeded medication can be removed from your list. It is an important part of your health care for your GP to be aware of what medication you take and what medication you no longer need.

## Avoiding Waste

A report published by the York Health Economics Consortium and the School of Pharmacy at the University of London, found that unused prescription medicines costs the NHS at least £300 million per year in England. Please help by only ordering the items you need. Repeat medication will not be removed from your repeat slip purely because you do not order it on every occasion.

## Over the Counter Medication

GPs in Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group have agreed to reduce their prescribing of the following:

- ☒ Pain killers for minor aches and pains ☒ Cough and cold remedies ☒ Lozenges, throat sprays, mouthwashes and gargles ☒ Hay fever preparations ☒ Indigestion remedies ☒ Travel medicines and vaccines ☒ Treatments for non-serious constipation and diarrhoea ☒ Treatments for minor acne and minor nail infections ☒ Tonics, vitamins, health supplements and complementary medicines ☒ Antiperspirants ☒ Threadworm tablets ☒ Ear wax removers and softeners ☒ Barrier creams for nappy rash ☒ Creams for female facial hair ☒ Creams, gels & stockinette for sprains and sports injuries ☒ Creams & gels for bruising, tattoos and varicose veins ☒ Athlete's foot cream and powders ☒ Slimming preparations other than those restricted to prescription only ☒ Head lice lotions and shampoos ☒ Moisturisers & bath additives for minor dry skin conditions ☒ Food and toilet preparations where not clinically indicated e.g. gluten free foods, sip feeds, infant feeds, soya milks and sun creams.

## Prescription Charges

People with certain medical conditions can get free *NHS prescriptions* if they hold a valid medical *exemption* certificate.

## Prescription Prepayment Certificates (PPC)

If you need more than 12 prescribed medicines each year, you could save money with a 12-month PPC.

Tel No: 0300 330 1341



Chelmer Village Surgery

# Prescriptions Leaflet



Reception 01245 467759

# How our Prescriptions system works

[www.chelmervillagesurgery.nhs.uk](http://www.chelmervillagesurgery.nhs.uk)

### Prescription Service Explained

Patients often ask why a prescription takes time to issue. Surely it is a matter of just printing it off and signing it?

Unfortunately this is not the case. Prescriptions are important medical documents and the doctor needs to make a number of checks before signing them in order to ensure the best possible care for the patient.

We hope that this short guide will help explain the prescription process at the practice.

### Repeat Prescriptions

If you take regular medication and your doctor feels your medicines can be repeated without you being seen each time, you will normally be given a computer repeat prescription slip - a tear-off portion of your prescription - listing your medication.

This repeat slip includes details of each medication available for you to order, the date that it was last ordered, the date you will be due to re-order it and the number of issues/or the number of times you may re-order the medication before you need to see the doctor for a medication review. Please keep this slip safely.

To request repeat medication, tick the box next to the name of the medication.

You will need to order your medication between seven and two working days before you run out, remember to take Public Holidays in to account.

If you order medication from your repeat prescription more than seven days before it is due to be re-issued, your request will not normally be dealt with until nearer the issue due date. The exception to this is if you are going on holiday when you should put your request in at least a week before you go away and indicate on the slip the date that you are going away.

If the doctor has indicated that you need to be seen prior to your next prescription it is because you require medical checks in order to assess that the medication that you are on is still correct. In this case please make an appointment to see a doctor two weeks before your medication is due.

### How to Request a Repeat Prescription

Your request can be made by:

- returning the side computer slip that came with your last prescription;
- by completing the repeat prescription request form at the surgery reception;
- by using the internet/online service;
- by writing the details on any piece of paper;
- or by an arrangement you have made with your local chemist\*

\*Some patients have made an independent arrangement with their chemist regarding their prescription requests. Please note that this prescription request service is not managed by the surgery and any queries should be directed to the chemist concerned.

Please indicate clearly which of the items you require and allow two working days (48 hours) for collection.

If you wish your prescription to be posted to you please enclose an SAE with your request and allow time for the post office to deliver.

For patient safety, repeat prescriptions will not be accepted by telephone or fax as this may lead to mistakes.

If you ask a chemist to deliver your request to the surgery, processing of the request will take 48 hours **from the point at which the request arrives in the surgery**. Not all chemists drop off requests or collect signed prescriptions daily.

### Collection of Prescriptions

For reasons of safety, we cannot allow children under the age of 16 to pick up prescriptions.

Depending on the arrangements you have in place you may:

- collect your prescription from the Surgery
- have your prescription sent electronically to your nominated pharmacy
- your local chemist may collect your prescription on your behalf

### Lost or Stolen Prescriptions

If a patient reports that a prescription is lost or stolen, a written statement is required from the patient. The doctor may not always agree to a re-issue. A register of lost or stolen prescriptions is kept in the surgery.

### Hospital Prescriptions

If you are prescribed new medication by a Hospital Consultant, the hospital will write to the surgery and inform your GP of the details of your new medication. This will take some time, so in the meantime the hospital should issue a supply of medication to see you through. If you have not received the medication from the hospital it means that the medication is not urgent.

Broomfield Hospital will sometimes give you a yellow slip which is a carbon copy of the handwritten hospital prescription to bring in to your GP. Unfortunately these yellow slips are often illegible or incomplete. In order to protect you and make sure you receive the correct medication, we may have to wait until we have received written confirmation from the Hospital.

### Electronic Prescriptions

This is a recent initiative which offers patients the ability to have their prescription signed electronically by their GP and sent electronically to their chosen or nominated pharmacy. If you chose to use the Electronic Prescription Service (EPS), you will need to be aware of several points:

- EPS is not used for any controlled drugs. If your repeat prescription request includes a controlled drug, none of the other items requested will be sent electronically.
- The choice (or nomination) of a pharmacy is an independent arrangement between patient and pharmacy. Any queries should be directed to the pharmacy concerned.
- You will still need to order your repeat prescription when it is due in the usual way (although your pharmacy may do this for you if this is what you have arranged).

**For more information visit**

**[www.hscic.gov.uk/epspatients](http://www.hscic.gov.uk/epspatients) or speak to your local pharmacy.**