

Repeat Dispensing Patient Information Leaflet

What is repeat dispensing?

Repeat dispensing is a different way of sending your prescription to your Pharmacy.



Instead of you having to order your medicines every month or 2 months from your GP practice your prescriber issues a batch of prescriptions which are sent to your Pharmacy that will last you until your next medication review (the maximum time this repeat prescription will last is 12 months).



Your Pharmacy is then able to dispense a new supply of medication each time it is due – usually every month or 2 months without you having to place an order.

Why have I been changed to repeat dispensing?

We are changing patients to this system now to help the GP Practice and your Community Pharmacy reduce the amount of time spent processing repeat prescriptions. This is important to help the NHS manage its workload during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As well as helping the GP Practice and Pharmacy there are also benefits for the patient:

- You will not need to contact the Practice to reorder your regular medications.
- You can change nominated dispenser at any time during the duration of the repeat dispensing prescription so if your normal Pharmacy needed to close you would still be able to get your medication from a different Pharmacy.
- Your Pharmacy will check if there have been any changes to your health or problems with your medication each time you collect your medication to make sure any problems are spotted and you get the help you need.

Who has decided to change me to repeat dispensing?

Each patient is being reviewed individually by one of our Prescribers to decide if repeat dispensing is suitable.

Can the Pharmacy give me the entire supply in one go?

No. The Pharmacy will continue to supply your medicines either monthly or 2 monthly. This is so that they can keep checking in with you to make sure the medicines are still working for you, that you are not having problems and that it is safe to continue with your medication. It also means that if your medicines need to be changed we do not waste large supplies of medication and so waste NHS money.



Is it safe to issue prescriptions for medication for such a long period of time?

Yes. Prescribers will only put patients on to this system if they believe it is safe to do so.

Each time you pick up your prescription your Pharmacy will ask you some questions to make sure your medication is still working for you, that you are not having problems and that it is safe to continue with your medication.

If you are having problems with your medicines at any time you should speak to your Pharmacist or prescriber.



Are all of my medicines being changed to electronic repeat dispensing?

All of the medicines that you are prescribed to be taken regularly each day will be changed to electronic repeat dispensing.

If you have other medicines that you only take occasionally you will still need to order these from the Practice as usual.

Why are medicines taken occasionally not being put on repeat dispensing?

It is important that we make sure medicines are not wasted. When medicines are only taken occasionally it is difficult to tell how much of this medication is needed each month.

So, to reduce waste we have taken the decision not to put this type of medicine on repeat dispensing.

How will I get the medicines I do not use every day and have not been issued on repeat dispensing?

You will need to order these from the GP Practice when you need them. If possible you should order these using the **NHS app** or on the **internet** using your GP practice on-line ordering system.



You should place an order when you have about 1 week's supply of these medicines left. This will allow time for the Practice to issue the prescription and your Pharmacy to dispense it.

How will the Pharmacy know when I need my medicines?

The prescription will be sent automatically to your nominated Pharmacy each month or every 2 months depending on how long your prescription will last.

You will then need to arrange to collect your medication or ask a friend, relative or neighbour to collect your medication for you.

If your Pharmacy delivers your medication they should have this on their records and automatically deliver the prescription each time they receive it.

