

Wasted medicines cost NHS Fife over £2 million each year



Tips for Reducing Medicines Waste

- Only order what you need.
- Check what medicines you already have before ordering more.
- Think before you tick the repeat prescription boxes.
- If you no longer need/ take a medicine, tell your GP/ pharmacist.
- Return unused medicine to a pharmacy.
- Don't stockpile medicines – if you run out, contact your GP/pharmacist.
- If you go into hospital, take all your medicines with you within the green bag (if provided). If you do not have one they are available at your pharmacy or GP practice, just ask.
- Returned medicines cannot be reused, recycled or sent abroad - they are all destroyed.

What can I do?

Remember, only order what you need, and ask your pharmacist or GP if you have any issues or questions about your medicines.

Serial Prescriptions

Patient Information Leaflet

If you require this leaflet in alternative languages and/or formats,
please contact 01383 565375
or email: natalie.bate@nhs.net / fionaforsyth@nhs.net

Your doctor has issued you with a serial prescription.

What is a serial prescription?

A serial prescription is a prescription for medicine(s) you need to treat a long-term condition, that lasts for 24 or 48 weeks.

There is no need to request a repeat prescription form from your doctor during this time. Instead you only need to visit your registered pharmacy for your repeat medication while the prescription is still valid.

Serial prescription(s) are kept in the pharmacy and your GP decides how often they should be collected, e.g. every four or eight weeks. Let your pharmacist know if you will need to collect your prescribed medicines earlier than normal or if you will need more than usual if, for example, you are going on holiday. Each time a prescription is collected the pharmacist notifies the doctor.

How do I get a serial prescription?

Before the GP is able to produce a serial prescription, you must be registered for the Chronic Medication Service (CMS) at a pharmacy of your choice. The serial prescription can only be dispensed at the pharmacy where the registration has taken place.

At the end of the 24 or 48 week prescription the pharmacist will ask you to sign the serial prescription form. At this point, the pharmacist can also request a new serial prescription from your GP. The doctor may prepare a new serial prescription without getting in touch but you may be invited into the practice for a review before getting your next serial prescription.

What if I need to see my GP about something else?

Even though you have a serial prescription you can still make an appointment to see the doctor whenever you need to.

Your prescriptions do not need to be collected from the registered pharmacy, but it is beneficial to use the same pharmacy once registered. Having a full and complete patient history will allow the pharmacist to make a more precise judgement with your treatment.

The pharmacist may also tell you that you need to see the doctor if, for example, your condition starts to get worse.

What if I no longer need my medicine?

Your doctor can stop medicines on your serial prescription if they need to. If this happens they must tell you and your pharmacist. You can also tell your pharmacist or GP if you no longer need or take a medicine.

If you move to another doctor's surgery you must let the old surgery know so that they can cancel your serial prescription.