

# Repeat Prescriptions

## Understanding the changes that could affect you



### What is changing?

From 2nd January 2018 pharmacies will no longer be able to order prescriptions on behalf of patients at this practice. If this change affects you please make arrangements to order your own prescriptions directly from the surgery. You or your carer can request your repeat prescription from the surgery in the following ways:

- On-line - the surgery now offers on-line prescription ordering and appointment booking. Please ask at reception for further details.
- By dropping your request in the prescription box in the waiting room.
- By post.

### Why is this happening?

Unused prescription medicines cost the NHS in England at least £300 million per year. Locally, across Birmingham CrossCity CCG, that equates to a cost of up to £4.5 million every year.

Did you know £4.5 million could pay for:\*

- 177 more community nurses *or*
- 1213 more hip replacements *or*
- 297 more drug treatment courses for breast cancer *or*
- 4500 more drug treatment courses for Alzheimer's *or*
- 4682 more cataract operations

*\*based on average costs*

Most patients are able to take responsibility for ordering their own repeat prescriptions. This is safer, and evidence from other areas in the country shows that it may reduce medicines waste.

Only you (or your carer) know what medicines you have already. When ordering repeat prescriptions please check what you have at home and avoid stockpiling medication. **You will need to allow at least 48 hours for the prescription to be processed (excluding weekends).**

**NOTE – If you request your prescription on a Friday afternoon or at the weekend your prescription may not be available until the following Wednesday.**

### What is not changing?

Pharmacy prescription collection and delivery schemes will not be affected by this change. If you have signed up to have your prescription sent electronically to the pharmacy, this will not change.

**In order to reduce waste and improve safety, we are asking patients to take these simple steps when ordering repeat medicines:**

- Check which medicines you still have at home before re-ordering – **only order what you need**. You and/or your carer are the best people to know which medicines you need each time.
- Some medicines may not need to be re-ordered every time if you don't take/use them every day or you already have enough.
- If you do not order a medicine because you have enough at home, you can still request it in the future; it will not be removed from your repeat medicines list.
- Let your GP or pharmacist know if you have stopped taking, or have concerns about any of your medicines. Regular discussions about your medicines will mean you get the right help with taking them.
- Unused medicines kept at home are a safety risk to children and to others.
- Unwanted medicines cannot be recycled or used by anyone else in the UK or overseas, even if the medicines are unopened. Return out-of-date and unwanted medicines to a local pharmacy, where they will be disposed of safely.
- NEVER dispose of your unwanted medicines by putting them in the bin. NEVER flush them down the sink or toilet.