

# NHS Repeat Dispensing

At Newton Drive Health Centre we have been reviewing our repeat prescription system in light of the Coronavirus Pandemic and in line with advice from NHS England.

We have been advised to make greater use of “Repeat Dispensing”. This is a way of authorising your usual medication for the pharmacy to supply several times without the need for another prescription being requested, prepared, checked and issued by the surgery; it automatically appears in the pharmacy. These repeated supplies are often called “batches”.

We feel that you are appropriate for “Repeat Dispensing” and so we have changed your prescription ready for your next order. Next time you are due your medication order it as normal and we will issue you a “Repeat Dispensing” or batch prescription. You can then collect your medication just like you normally do. The following time you need your medication is when things will be different, now you just go straight to the pharmacy for your next batch, no need to order from the surgery.

The prescription we issue will have enough batches authorised to last until your expected review date. This is normally done in the month of your birth, so if you were born in July, we try to do your annual review in the month of July.

The pharmacy should tell you when you collect your last batch. You may need to come into the surgery for an appointment to see a doctor or a nurse, or arrange a telephone review before your next Repeat Dispensing prescription can be authorised.

If you feel that a “Repeat Dispensing” prescription is not right for you please contact the surgery before you order your next prescription. We may be able to provide more information and if needed we can easily change your prescription back to a normal repeat and you can continue to order it regularly.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Do I have to use the NHS Repeat Dispensing service?**

No, you don't have to use this service, if you wish you can continue to order prescriptions as you do currently.

### **Is repeat dispensing suitable for everyone?**

No, it is only suitable for people whose medical condition could be described as 'stable', meaning that they are on the same medicines almost all of the time.

### **Do I have to use the same pharmacy?**

Yes, as the pharmacist keeps all your prescriptions and is responsible for checking each time that you still need all your medicines and are not having any problems with them.

If you move or change address or cannot use the pharmacy you choose, you will have to go back to your doctor for a new repeatable prescription.

### **Does the pharmacist have to give me everything on my batch prescription form?**

No, not if you have plenty of one or more of your medicines left at home, but your pharmacist will ask you, or whoever is collecting your prescription, some questions to check what is still needed.

### **Who do I talk to if I think I am having side effects from my medicines?**

If you have problems speak to your pharmacist. He/she may ask you whether your medicine is helping you and may contact your doctor if this is not the case. Please do not worry about this, your doctor or pharmacist will not make any changes without talking to you.

### **What happens if I pay for my prescriptions?**

You have to pay a prescription charge for each item every time you get a prescription dispensed. You may find that a prescription pre-payment certificate could save you money. Ask your pharmacist for details.

### **What should I do if I am going on holiday?**

Speak to your pharmacist well in advance of your travel date. Depending on how your prescription is written it may be possible for you to collect your medication in advance. Alternatively the pharmacist may speak to your doctor to help arrange a supply of medicines for you.

### **What do I do when my final batch prescriptions has been dispensed?**

You will need to visit your doctor before your final supply of medicine runs out and have your medicines reviewed.

If your doctor is happy that your condition is still stable and your medicines do not need changed, you will be given another repeatable prescription.