

Repeat Prescriptions

None of us like having to take medicines or think about ordering more each month, so it is useful to know there are different ways of requesting repeat medicines when we are getting low.

In the bag when you collect your medication is a slip that lists the medication you are prescribed on a repeat basis. You can use this list to request medicines; tick the items on the list that you need and hand it in at the doctors surgery, or post it back to order the medicine you need - it is important to only tick the medicine you need not everything on the list.

You can also request medicine on-line through the surgery website - some systems pass directly through to the clinical system and your record, others send the surgery an email alert that you need more medicine. Both ways are secure and provide you with flexibility in requesting the medicine. Please ask at the surgery or visit the website to sign up to the scheme.

Elmham Surgery also offers a remote delivery service, so you can leave a repeat request at the remote collection point for the delivery driver to collect.

Medicines wastage is a serious problem for the NHS. Often medicines are requested routinely by patients, but never taken. They are sadly returned to the surgery in bags when the patient leaves their home or dies. The surgery has to destroy these drugs as they cannot be reissued. It is estimated that £300 million is wasted each year on unused or partly used medicine.

Top tips:

- Only order what you need and take is as prescribed
- Attend for reviews of your medicines regularly
- Return unused items to the surgery for safe destruction
- Discuss any issues with the GP or nurse, or the dispensary staff.

This website is useful to visit <http://www.medicinewaste.com/>

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