

WILL IT COST PATIENTS MORE?

The vast majority of patients collecting repeat prescriptions do not pay prescription charges; therefore there will be no difference to these patients in terms of cost. If you do have to pay prescription charges and you need more than 5 prescription items in 4 months (or 14 items in 12 months), the best way to pay for your prescriptions would be to obtain a Prescription Prepayment Certificate (PPC). To obtain FP95 form call 0845 850 0030 or visit www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pcc

SUMMARY:

- 28 day prescribing has important benefits for patients. The way you take your medicine will remain the same, only the amount of medicines you receive on each prescription will change.
- All medicines should last for the same number of days. If you are running out of some items or have too much of some medication, please tell the practice.
- Do not stockpile medicines at home; only order those items on your repeat prescription that you need.
- Return any unwanted medication to your local pharmacy for safe disposal.
- If you have any questions about 28 day prescribing after reading this leaflet please ask in the surgery.
- Please allow 2 working days for your script to be issued.
- If you request your repeat medicines by telephone please call between 2pm and 5pm on the dedicated prescription request line.

You may also approach PALS for help or advice;

Should you require any further advice, please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) for confidential support or guidance

Tel: 01305 361285

Email: PALS@dorset-pct.nhs.uk

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO YOUR REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS

**The Barn Surgery
Newbury
Gillingham
Dorset
SP8 4XS**

Tel: 01747 824201

Repeat Prescription Line: 01747 834750 (2pm – 5pm)

**Peacemarsh Surgery
Marlott Road
Gillingham
Dorset
SP8 4FA**

Tel: 01747 834330

Repeat Prescription Line: 01747 834333 (2pm – 5pm)

www.gillinghamsurgery.co.uk

INTRODUCTION OF 28 DAY REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS

It has for some time been recommended within the NHS, that all prescriptions should automatically be for a 28 day period, other than a limited number of items, which come in 3 months packs, such as the contraceptive pill.

For some time now we as a practice have resisted the drive to move towards providing 28 day repeat prescriptions, as we realise this may increase inconvenience for some patients, is costly for those who have to pay prescription fees and increases the work for our receptionists.

Research has shown that a very large amount of medication is wasted when doctors prescribe for two months (56 days) resulting in the loss of millions of pounds of NHS money. This money could be used to provide services elsewhere in the NHS.

The Department of Health supports one month prescribing and has said: **“A 28 day repeat prescribing interval is recognised by the NHS as making the best possible balance between patient convenience, good medical practice and minimal drug wastage”**.

As from the 1st of December 2011 we shall have a dedicated repeat prescription order line between 2pm and 5pm at each surgery. The numbers are:

The Barn: 01747 834750

Peacemarsh: 01747 834333

HOW WILL 28 DAY PRESCRIBING AFFECT YOU?

If you are being prescribed a “repeat medicine” your doctor will now start to prescribe enough of each medicine to last you for 28 days. For example, if you are taking 2 tablets a day you will receive 56 tablets, 3 tablets a day 84 tablets, 4 tablets a day 112 tablets etc. This will mean that you will be able to order all of your medicines on the same day each month. We plan to start implementing in

December 2011 with all patients being switched gradually. There are some drugs which are packaged in 3 monthly amounts and will continue to be prescribed in these packs eg contraceptive pills and Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT). We will always try to be flexible for holiday requirements.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF 28 DAY PRESCRIBING

- You will always start (and finish), the container of each medicine on the same day of the week. In this way, it will be easier for your doctor to review all of the repeat medicines you are taking and to see if you might be having problems with any of your medicines.
- Companies already manufacture a large number of medicines in 28 day ‘calendar packs’ that show the day of the week on the packaging. This packaging allows you to check and monitor that you have taken your medication each day. These packs also have patient information leaflets inside and ideally the pack should not be broken into as they are designed to be supplied with this information included.
- 28 day prescribing reduces the amount of medicine which is currently wasted when medicines are stopped or changed by doctors. It also reduces the amount which is wasted when partly filled containers are thrown away.
- At the moment, a large number of patients make several visits a month to the surgery because their medicines run out at different times. As you will finish your medicines all at the same time, you should only have to visit the surgery or preferred pharmacy once a month to collect your prescription or repeat medicines. It will also reduce the likelihood of needing to make an emergency request if you run out of medicine.