

Prescription requests from patients - Reminder for GP practices

Unplanned changes to normal patterns of prescribing, e.g. over ordering of medicines by patients, puts the medicines supply chain under pressure and can result in medicines stock shortages. This increases work for GPs, practice staff, community pharmacies and inconveniences patients.

When managing prescription requests from patients, to prevent stockpiling:

- Avoid extending normal repeat prescription durations,
- Don't increase usual quantities prescribed
- Always check the last day of issue for prescription requests, and reject early requests.

Requests for inhalers from patients:

- Responsible prescribing of inhalers will ensure there are sufficient supplies of inhalers for all patients.
- Discuss requests for inhalers not ordered for more than 4 months with the patient to ascertain if it is clinically required.
- Ensure patients are aware of dose counters on inhalers (if applicable), and how to recognise if their inhaler needs replacing. (Patient leaflet is available attached, or on PAD, to help them manage their inhaler stocks at home).
- Check how long a patient's inhaler(s) should last (most last more than 4 weeks see attached information, or on PAD, for practice staff)

Good practice processes to implement:

- Set up electronic repeat dispensing for suitable patients – ask your CCG medicines management team for help
- Encourage patients and carers with proxy access to register for patient facing on-line ordering services e.g. NHS App, EMIS Patient Access.

Surrey Heartlands CCG Medicines Management Team