

Surgery Newsletter March

Batch Prescriptions

At the last Patient Participation Group meeting on 3rd February 2025, we had an interesting discussion about Batch Prescribing. Batch prescribing is an alternative way to receive your medications, based on an agreement between you, your GP and your nominated pharmacy. A number of prescriptions are issued by your doctor at the same time, to cover an agreed period of up to one year and are sent electronically to your nominated pharmacy. It is most applicable for patients whose medications are the same each month.

How does it work?

When you are due your next supply of medicines, the pharmacy already has the prescription and can dispense each batch to you without the need to contact the surgery. This means that for the agreed period, you simply have to go to the pharmacy to collect your medication. Some pharmacies ask for you to simply call before you wish to collect your prescription. This allows them to ensure it is ready and waiting for you to collect. If batch prescriptions sound right for you, when you next request a prescription you can request to change to Batch prescriptions in the comments box. Your GP will assess whether you are suitable for batch prescribing and a member of the team will contact you to let you know the outcome.

What if I want to change pharmacy?

You can choose to change your nominated pharmacy at any point during your Batch prescription. Simply ask your new pharmacy to register you and they can access any remaining prescriptions that have not yet been dispensed.

What if I leave the surgery?

If you leave the surgery, we are obligated to cancel any remaining prescriptions that we have issued and you will need to arrange a new supply of medication to be given to you by your new surgery, so please give yourself time to arrange this.

What if I am on holiday?

If you are going on holiday and will run out of medication whilst away, your pharmacy can access your next prescription early after a discussion with you.

What happens at the end of the batches?

Your pharmacy will let you know they have issued you your last prescription. At this point you will need a review to assess whether you are suitable to continue on batch prescribing. The surgery will contact you if you need to attend an appointment for a review.

What if I don't attend for a review?

If you choose not to attend for a review, you will be automatically classed as unsuitable to continue on batch prescribing, as it has not been possible to assess your stability on your medications.

What if there have been changes that may affect my medication?

Each time you collect your next supply of medicines from the pharmacy, the pharmacist will ask you a selection of questions to ensure that your medications remain current and suitable. If you know or feel that there is a reason why your medicines may need reviewing, e.g you have been in hospital or you have started taking additional over-the-counter medicines, please let your pharmacist know.

Making the Most of Digital Systems: A Guide for Patients

We have been updating our Web Site to incorporate a range of improvements. The updated site is due to go live on 10 March 2025. Please message the practice if you wish to make any additional suggestions.

Please see the second part of our Update on all things digital.

4. Remote Consultations

Video and telephone appointments allow you to speak to healthcare professionals from home. These consultations are convenient, save time, and can be ideal for non-urgent health concerns. Ensure you have a stable internet connection and a private space for the appointment as well as making sure that you have kept us up to date with your mobile telephone number.

5. Staying Informed and Educated

There are many resources to help understand digital resources, such as:

- Health advice libraries with trusted information about symptoms and conditions including the NHS Health A-Z tool at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/>
- Tools to track your health metrics, such as blood pressure. Our web site offers a range of web forms that patients can complete. These are available 24/7 and then will be uploaded to your medical record by our Administrative Team during working hours. Each of our surgeries has a Blood Pressure machine in the waiting room area.
- Links to Apps available via Smart Watches.
- The NHS App is the most used UK healthcare app and can be downloaded at: <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-app/>

The final part of the digital systems guide will be included next month