**Serial Prescriptions – frequently asked questions**

**What is a serial prescription?**

A serial prescription looks like your normal prescription but is issued by your GP for 24, 48 or 56 weeks. It will be issued in intervals (usually 4 or 8 weeks) by the pharmacy. This will be dispensed by the pharmacy when it is due so it will be ready for you to collect before you run out of medication. This makes collecting prescriptions much easier for you and saves time at the GP practice. You will not need to reorder the items on your serial prescription from the surgery or pharmacy.

**Why have my repeat medications been selected for serial prescribing?**

You have been identified as having a long term condition which requires medication. As your medication(s) is/are quite stable and you regularly attend reviews it has been decided by your GP that is it appropriate for you to have a long term prescription for these items.

**Can I use any pharmacy?**

You can take your serial prescription to any pharmacy. When you collect your first supply of medicines from your serial prescription, the pharmacy will ask you to register with them and sign a form. They will then ask some questions about your medicine(s) and general health. You will need to continue to collect your serial prescription items from the pharmacy you are registered with. You can attend any pharmacy with other (non-serial) prescriptions or to buy medicine or seek advice. If you wish to change the pharmacy you get your serial prescription items from, please inform both the pharmacy and your GP practice.

**Is anything not covered by my serial prescription?**

Some items are not suitable for including on a serial prescription, and so you may be provided with a serial prescription for only some of your medicines. Items that you only use occasionally (usually includes the direction ‘when required’, such as creams) will not be included on a serial prescription. Controlled medicines (such as morphine) and medicines which require closer monitoring (such as methotrexate) also cannot be included on a serial prescription. These items should continue to be ordered by you in accordance with your usual surgery and pharmacy arrangements. Please ask your community pharmacist any questions you have about what is not covered by your serial prescription.

**What do I do if my medicine changes?**

If your medicines change, the GP and pharmacy will communicate directly to ensure that any necessary changes are made to your serial prescription. It is good practice to check your medicines before you leave the pharmacy to ensure that the prescription has been updated. This reduces waste for the NHS, and allows the pharmacy to organise a supply of any missing items.

Not all new medicines that your GP prescribes will be added to your serial prescription. If it is short-term or a medicine you are just starting on, you will need to order these items yourself until such time as the GP decides that it is appropriate to add to your serial prescription.

**What do I do if I am going away on holiday?**

Please let your pharmacy know 1-2 weeks in advance of when you will be going away (and how long for). This will enable them to have your medicines ready in time.

**Who can I contact for more information?**

Please speak to your community pharmacist if you have any further questions.