

A BRIEF GUIDE TO YOUR PRESCRIPTION

What is a prescription?

Simply put, a prescription is an instruction written by a doctor that authorises you to be issued with a treatment or medicine. For example, a patient may be issued with antibiotics for a chest infection or ongoing blood pressure problems. The prescription form (usually called an FP10) is a green form that has your details and the medication. The Doctor will need to sign the bottom part to allow you to get the medication from the pharmacy.

Acute Item:

These are items that the doctor will prescribe as a 'one-off,' such as an antibiotic to treat an infection, or a cream for dry skin (only intended for short-term use). If you require this medication in the future, you will need to contact Reception to put in a request. You may be asked to see or speak to a GP first.

Repeat Item:

These are items that the doctor has authorised for you to have future supplies of. They will be for ongoing treatments such as blood pressure problems. If you have items 'on repeat' they will be listed on the right-hand side part of your prescription

For safety reasons, no prescription requests are taken over the phone

Prescription Issues:-

A patient is allotted a certain amount of repeat issues for each medication when a Doctor originally prescribes the medication.

When these issues are used up, you will need to have the medication reviewed/re-authorised. For some patients, this may be more often depending on your medical condition, for example, some medications will be reviewed/re-authorised every 3 or 6 months. But, a new medication, may need more frequent monitoring until a condition is stabilised.

When the issues are up for reviewing/re-authorising, a patient will be instructed to contact the surgery. During this time, ordering your repeat medications in the usual way will stop until the medication has been reviewed/re-authorised.

Not all of these reviews/authorisations will be with your GP at that time, some will be face-to-face consultations, some will be done electronically (a review of your notes) and others will be carried out over the telephone.

However, all medications will need a review at least yearly. This review may consist of a blood test, blood pressure reading, checking of side effects and efficacy of the medication, and ensuring medications are being taken correctly.

Prescription Ordering:

When you are running out of your monthly (repeat) medication, you need to put in a repeat request (see ordering a repeat prescription section for more details) so a new script can be generated for the doctor to sign.

At Abbey Medical Centre, we ask for 2 full working days to issue a repeat AND 3 full working days if an item needs to be 're-authorised.'

If you have to request different items several times during the month, you discuss with your pharmacy or the surgery to have your items synced (everything in line), so that you will only have to order once during the month (or in some cases every two months).

You may need to order your medication earlier than it is due, for example, if you are going on holiday (the maximum we will supply regardless of the length of your holiday is 3 months). If this is the case, please inform us when you request your medication – failure to do this may result in the request being refused.

You should never have to request a prescription urgently as you should be requesting your repeat prescription when you have at least 7 working days remaining (and not before), allowing time to collect your prescription and for your pharmacy to dispense it.

It will be at a Clinician's discretion as to whether requests for urgent prescriptions can be granted and this will be strictly on a case-to-case basis

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have requested your medication within the appropriate time frame – it is not acceptable to expect prescriptions signed on demand or the same day because you have run out