

Medication Prescribing Policy

Surgery policy to ensure safe prescribing of medication for any (regular) monitoring (e.g. blood testing, etc.) must be undertaken by the surgery (to ensure a safe closed loop monitoring approach is taken to medication dispensing).

Before prescribing medication, the clinician will consider the patients' medical record, symptoms and monitoring test's to be carried out (as maintained in the patient clinical system).

Patient Clinical System (Surgery) Update

When a patient is started on a particular medication (or the surgery is taking on prescribing responsibility from secondary care (e.g. hospital, etc.)) the need for regular monitoring (e.g. blood tests, etc.) should be detailed upon the patients notes (and prescription (script) notes, where practical).

In setting the regular monitoring schedule the clinician will follow recommended local &/or national guidelines. Patient regular monitoring can be 3 or 6 monthly, annually, or variable duration depending upon the medication.

Patient medication reviews are (generally) carried out in your birth month.

Patient Testing (Regular Monitoring)

Patients will be notified of the requirement for regular monitoring/testing (e.g. SMS (text message), eMail, Telephone, Prescription/medication box information (Script), etc.).

Patients need to ensure they book themselves in for the necessary monitoring blood tests, blood pressure, height, weight, etc when a clinical staff member requests them to be performed. (**NOTE:** it may be possible to monitor/supply some these test results from the patients' own home).

Regular monitoring is used to avoid the risk of the medication not being prescribed / reduced / unsafely prescribed to the patient.

Repeat Prescribing

Before reauthorising a prescription (script) for patient medication the clinician will:

- Review the patients records to determine whether (or not) the necessary regular monitoring is due, performed, or overdue,
- Ensure that the patient has not experienced any undesired side-effects (that may require medication change(s)),
- Review the medication & dose to understand whether dose titration (increase/reduction), termination (temporary/permanent) of the medication or change to an alternative are required,
- Determine if further investigation or patient review is required.

IF the necessary regular monitoring testing is overdue and the patient has not responded to reminders, the clinician may take the decision to (a) reduce the medication dosage or (b) stop the issue of a repeat prescription to avoid the risk of prescribing errors &/or unsafe prescribing.

Variable Repeat Prescribing

Patients need to be aware that medications that are identified as 'variable repeat' will be removed from their 'repeat medication' items 12 months after initial dispense. If these medications are required for a longer period, then the patient needs to contact the surgery to determine whether the clinician is prepared to continue prescribing, medication review or other action is required.

ONE DRIVE DOCUMENT – if viewing from the clinical network bookmark the document to ensure you are working to the latest version

Revision 2025-04 v2

2025-04-22 v1 New version (from DOCMAN original) – PATIENT FACING POLICY

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Table of Contents

Medication Prescribing Policy	1
Patient Clinical System (Surgery) Update	1
Patient Testing (Regular Monitoring)	1
Repeat Prescribing	1
Variable Repeat Prescribing	2
ONE DRIVE DOCUMENT – if viewing from the clinical network bookmark the document to ensure you are working to the latest version.....	2
Revision 2025-04 v2	2
Table of Contents.....	2