



Patient Group
CHAIRPERSON'S BLOG

Fred West | January 2017

1.43% is the title for my blog this month of January.

1.43% is the percentage of prescription drugs ordered but not used at this practice.

When you look at this figure it doesn't seem a very big number, but taken as a percentage of the practice budget it is £85,500 that is being wasted on prescription items ordered but not used by patients using Springfield Practice.

This represents £1.25 per person per month, a seemingly small figure, but cumulative across the NHS service makes a significant impact.

Sometimes people call the pharmacy and order every item that is on their repeat prescription, even if not all of the medication is not needed.

We can all 'do our bit' by taking a few minutes before ordering our medication and assess our actual needs to avoid overstocking.

Of course, it is important to ensure that we do not let ourselves run out of our medication, so please act responsibly.

On average, a GP is required to authorize around 200 repeat prescriptions per week. Once medication has been issued from the chemist to a patient it cannot be returned, even if unused, and the packets have never been opened, has to be destroyed.

Over the NHS of England and Wales the cost of unused medication is approximately £300million a year.

Let's look again at the way we order and see if that 1.43% can be brought down to 0% over the next year and help the practice to spend the budget on more better things.

With effect from 25th February 2017 the surgery will not be accepting medication requests from pharmacies on behalf of patients. The practice is now using the Centralised ordering service which is run by the CCG. If your chemist used to order your prescription, can you please now telephone the POD (Prescription Ordering Direct) on 024 76246 072

Thank you for reading this.