

Will my pharmacist help me? Yes, if you have problems speak to your pharmacist. They may ask you whether your medicine is helping you and may contact your doctor about this. Please do not worry about this, your doctor or pharmacist will not make any changes without talking to you.

Does the pharmacist have to give me everything on my repeat dispensing form? No, not if you have plenty of one or more items left at home, but your pharmacist may ask you, or your representative, some questions to check what is still needed.

Should I sign all the prescriptions at the same time? No. Only fill in part 1 or part 2 and sign in part 3 on the reverse of the form, when you receive the medicines from that prescription from the pharmacy.

What happens if I pay prescription charges? You have to pay a prescription charge each time you get a prescription dispensed, unless your circumstances change. You may find that a prescription prepayment certificate (PPC) could save you money. Ask your pharmacist for details, he/she may also be able to give you an application form (FP95). If not, ring 0845 850 0300 to find out more.

How do I check if I can get free prescriptions? Read part 1 of the prescription form. If any of the statements apply to you on the day you are asked to pay for your prescription, you don't have to pay a prescription charge (or charges). Your circumstances may change before your repeat dispensing issue forms run out. For enquiries about medical and maternity exemptions, call 0845 601 8076. (Calls are charged at the local rate.) For advice on the NHS low income scheme, call 0845 850 1166.

REPEAT DISPENSING

A New Way to get repeat prescriptions

Do you get the same medicines regularly? Do you often use the same Pharmacy?

Would you like to get your repeat prescriptions direct from your pharmacy, rather than getting them from the surgery each time?

See inside for more information about repeat dispensing and how it could help you.

Repeat Dispensing – Patient Information

What is repeat dispensing? It's a new way of getting medicines or other items you or your child uses regularly without asking your prescriber for a new prescription each time.

Who is my prescriber? The person who signs your prescription. Usually this will be your doctor, but increasingly it could be another member of the surgery healthcare team, such as a practice nurse.

Don't I need to see my prescriber before I get a prescription? Your prescriber will make sure it's safe to give your medicines this way. If your prescriber wants to review your medication before giving you a prescription, he/she will advise you about this.

How does repeat dispensing work? Your prescriber will give you an "authorising" repeat dispensing prescription (the form with RA printed on it) and a number of repeat dispensing issue forms (forms with RD printed on them). Your prescriber will only sign the "authorising" repeat dispensing prescription. This form is valid for up to one year. You should take all these prescriptions (both the signed RA form and the RD issue forms) to your pharmacy, to get your first lot of medicines or other items.

Do I need to sign the back of all the prescriptions? NO. You shouldn't sign all the forms in one go. Complete parts 1 and 2 and sign part 3 on the reverse of the first repeat batch issue form ("RD" form), when you collect your first lot of medicines or other items. Your pharmacy will store the rest of your "RD" forms in a safe place for you.

What do I do when I need more medicine or other items? Go back to your pharmacy and ask them to "repeat dispense" your medicines or other items. They will find your next batch issue prescription and ask you to fill in the reverse side, after checking a few details they will issue your next batch of medicines or other items.

Do I have to pay for my medicines again? Yes. If you pay prescription charges, you must pay a charge each time the prescription is repeated.

How will I know when my repeat dispensing issue forms run out? Your pharmacist will tell you when he/she issues your last batch of medicines. He will give you a form to remind you to go back to your prescriber for more repeat dispensing issue forms. You should go back **BEFORE** your medicines run out, as your prescriber may want to book an appointment to check that your prescription is still right for you. Your prescriber or his/her staff will have to print a new authorising repeat dispensing prescription and repeat dispensing batch issue forms (they cannot hand write these prescriptions).

Do I have to use repeat dispensing? No. you can continue collecting prescriptions in the way you do now.

Do I have to use the same pharmacy? Yes, you need to return to the same pharmacy to get all of the other repeat issue forms dispensed. If you move or change address and cannot use the pharmacy you chose, you will have to return to your prescriber for a new "authorising" repeat dispensing prescription and more repeat dispensing issue forms to change to another pharmacy.

How often do I need to go to the pharmacy? Your prescriber or pharmacist will advise you, for example it may be "as and when you need it" or monthly.

Do I need to tell the pharmacist anything? Yes, for example if there has been a change in your condition or if you are taking any other medicines (to check if it is safe to take these with your repeat dispensed medicine). You should tell your pharmacist about other medicines given:

- After a hospital or dental appointment.
- From another pharmacy (including non-prescription items such as cough/cold remedies)
- Herbal or other "alternative" medicines.

You should tell your pharmacist if you stop taking medicines for any reason.