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## **Serial Prescriptions Service**

### **Serial Prescriptions at Barbauchlaw Medical Practice**

A serial prescription is a new type of prescription for medicines taken for long-term conditions. A serial prescription means that you can get your regular, repeat medicines straight from your pharmacy without having to order a prescription from your GP beforehand. Your GP or pharmacy team working in the practice may have suggested that you are suitable for a serial prescription which are valid for 24 to 56 weeks once issued. This means you won't need to order your repeat medicines from your GP practice during that time. Instead, your nominated pharmacy will keep hold of your serial prescription and supply medicines usually every 8 weeks (56 days). However, not all your items on your repeat list may be suitable to be issued on a serial prescription. If this is the case, these items will still need to be ordered from your GP practice when you require them, such as creams or angina sprays.

### **What happens if my medicines change or I start a new one?**

If your medication regime has changed out with your serial prescription (e.g. if your dose has changed while you have been in hospital), it is important you make sure your GP is aware of these changes as they can stop and/or change your serial prescription items when needed. If this happens, the GP practice will inform your pharmacy of any changes so the items can no longer be dispensed as part of your serial prescription. You may wish to inform your pharmacy yourself as well of any changes. At this point your GP may switch your medication back to a normal repeat prescription if needed until they are happy that the new or changed medication is best suited for you. Or, they will produce a new serial prescription for the item in question for your pharmacy to dispense from.

### **What happens if I am going on holiday and won't have enough to cover while I'm away?**

Serial prescriptions can be collected earlier than the 56 day ( 8 week) supply interval if needed. If you require this, you should inform your pharmacy of this and give them plenty of notice, at least a week before you wish to collect your serial prescriptions as a courtesy. Each time you collect your serial prescriptions, your pharmacy electronically informs your GP practice and this keeps your records accurate and up to date.

### **What happens when my serial prescription is due to run out?**

Your pharmacy will contact your GP practice to request a new serial prescription. Your GP may then contact you to make a routine appointment for a review or tests before they issue the next serial prescription.

**Can I use other pharmacies?**

If you have been issued serial prescriptions you will need to collect your serial prescription medicines from your nominated pharmacy you are registered with. However, you can go to any other pharmacy with other prescriptions, to buy medicine or get advice.

If you have any other questions, please speak with your community pharmacy, or visit:

[www.nhsinform.scot/care-support-and-rights/nhs-services/pharmacy/medicines-care-and-review-service](http://www.nhsinform.scot/care-support-and-rights/nhs-services/pharmacy/medicines-care-and-review-service)