



## Patient Participation Group

Report 3/11/2022

### Repeat Prescription policy update



We ask you to give us 3 working days' notice for your repeat prescriptions.

Although Repeat Prescriptions mean you should take the medication long term, they do need review regularly. This is because:

Some medications need monitoring by checking blood pressure or blood tests to make sure they are still effective.

Age and new health conditions also affect whether a medication is still safe or whether it may clash with other treatments.

From time to time the health department may inform doctors that specialists have discovered a previously unknown side effect of a drug.

All your prescriptions are now reviewed by doctors or specially trained clinical pharmacists, not just printed out by receptionists. To ensure we can properly check and keep you safe, we ask for 3 days.

In other words, please request your regular medication 3 weekdays before you need it. Example:

request on Monday : ready on Thursday

request on Wednesday : ready on Monday

request on Friday : ready on Wednesday

request on weekend : ready on Thursday

This applies to orders online.

It may take up to one week if using the computer printout slip, handwritten/typed notes, or request via your pharmacist.

## Paramedic joins our team



This month we welcome Alec Saide, a paramedic who will work in different practices across the PCN (primary care network).

Many of you have heard of paramedics and usually think of ambulances and emergency situations. What that means is paramedics are highly skilled to face an unfamiliar patient:

They can rapidly make an assessment and spot any critical issues,

They take into account the social circumstances as well as symptoms,

They are able to come up with an action plan to keep the patient safe.

Alec will be based at surgery premises, He can see patients face to face, take telephone calls, and also do home visits.

Alec will have the same lines of communication as other team members in case he needs to discuss a problem. He can also arrange follow up by the team.

## Influenza vaccine



We urge all the at-risk population to take the influenza vaccine ('flu jab').

The last two years in lockdown meant many people were not in contact with others and so did not catch the flu. Since the restrictions ended, we become at risk again. Moreover, the long period when we were not exposed to the flu virus also meant our immune system was not active against it. We need the additional protection.