

## What is repeat dispensing?

It's a new way of getting the medicines or other items you or your child uses regularly without asking your doctor for a prescription each time.

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

**How does repeat dispensing work?** Your doctor will be able to issue an "authorising" repeat dispensing prescription ("RA" printed on it) and a number of repeat dispensing batch issue forms ("RD" printed on them). Your doctor will only sign the "authorising" repeat dispensing prescription. This form is valid for up to a year.

The surgery will then arrange for the delivery of this batch of repeatable prescriptions to Valley Pharmacy, in time for you to receive your first supply of medicine.

Valley Pharmacy will prepare your prescription and you can collect it either from Valley Pharmacy in Barrowden, or you can collect it from a pick-up point at the following Doctors surgeries:

- The Uppingham Surgery
- The Gretton Surgery
- The Ketton Surgery

**What do I do when I need more medicine or other items?** When you require more of the regular monthly items that are listed on your REPEAT DISPENSING prescription forms you only need to let Valley Pharmacy know. We will make the necessary arrangements for you.

**What if I occasionally take other medicines?** If your surgery has not included some of your occasionally required medicine we can still help you. We will order them from your surgery on your behalf and prepare them ready for you to collect – saving you time!

**What do I do when my repeat dispensing issue forms run out?** Valley Pharmacy will give you a reminder slip when you collect your final batch of medication. We can also deliver the reminder slip to your doctors surgery, this will alert the surgery that your batch of prescriptions has been used up at the

pharmacy. You may then be required to contact the surgery, after a couple of working days, so that they can inform you whether or not you need a review/blood test/clinic appointment prior to them issuing any further prescriptions.

**Do I need to sign anything before I start?** Yes, your surgery will require your consent, by completing form RD1[repeat dispensing agreement], to allow Valley Pharmacy and your doctor to exchange information about your treatment. All information given by you to your doctor or pharmacist will be confidential.

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

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

## Will Valley Pharmacy help me?

Yes, if you have problems speak to our pharmacist, by phone or in person. 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 issue form?** No, not if you have plenty of one or more items left at home, but we may ask you some questions to check what is still needed.

## What happens if I pay prescription charges?

You have to pay a prescription charge (or charges) each time you get a prescription dispensed, unless your circumstances change. You may find that a prescription pre-payment certificate (PPC) could save you money. Ask us for details, we 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).