

STAITHES SURGERY DISPENSARY NEWS

17th December 2018

Newsletter produced in partnership with Staithes Patient Participation Group



THE COST OF DRUGS

The annual drugs bill for the NHS is £17.4 billion and rising by 8% per year. A conservative estimate of the cost of drug wastage is £300 million.

REDUCING COSTS AND WASTAGE AT STAITHES SURGERY

We all worry about getting snowed in and not being able to collect our prescriptions. However this can lead to over ordering and stockpiling medicines which are eventually returned to the surgery for destruction. **We urge patients to only order the medicines they are currently taking and not to order infrequently used items every month. Once any type of medication has left the surgery, even if it is returned unused and intact, it still has to be DESTROYED.**

OVER THE COUNTER MEDICINES

We could save the NHS a considerable amount by purchasing over the counter medicines for self-care or self-limiting condition that does not need treatment as it will heal or be cured of its own accord. For example, Paracetamol, anti-histamine tablets for hay fever and other over the counter medication are not expensive.

The surgery is not suggesting that patients self-diagnose their own condition. If in any doubt we would always recommend a diagnosis prior to self-medication.

If you are eligible for a **flu vaccination** please ensure that you book an appointment with Reception.

SYNCHRONISATION OF PATIENTS' MEDICINES AT STAITHES SURGERY

The dispensary team are willing to try to synchronise patients' medicines to enable a once monthly visit to the surgery for collection. Please enquire at the dispensary. This will be more cost effective for both patients and the surgery and it will also be more environmentally friendly.

DISPENSING MEDICINES: USE IT OR LOSE IT

From time to time various governments threaten to end dispensing practices, so your support by using the service for repeat prescriptions and urgent medicine is important. If we lose dispensing patients, we move closer to the possibility of losing the service as it will become unviable. The big pharmacies are all in competition with one another for business and they will try to get patients to sign up to have their prescriptions dispensed from them. ***Please help us to stay open by using our services. Don't let them disappear.***

DISPENSING SERVICES OFFERED BY STAITHES SURGERY

- Medication dispensed at the time of your appointment
- Repeat and acute prescriptions
- Online ordering
- Medication reviews

COLLECTION OF PRESCRIPTIONS

We would like to remind patients that **there is a minimum of 48 working hours after ordering prescriptions for collection.** Prescriptions ordered on a Friday afternoon will be ready for collection Tuesday afternoon.

Prescriptions ordered online over the weekend will be ready for collection on Wednesday. This is because your prescription will not appear in the dispensing queue until Monday morning.

We thank you for your understanding on this matter.