

THE MEDICAL PRACTICE AT 48 WIMPOLE STREET

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Practice Policy for Repeat Prescriptions

“Before signing a repeat prescription, a doctor must be satisfied that it is safe and appropriate to do so. Arrangements for issuing repeat prescriptions should include suitable provision for monitoring each patient’s condition.”

(‘Repeat prescriptions – take care’, GMC News 1999 Issue 5)

All patients on continuing medication will need to be reviewed regularly. This is every 6 to 12 months when taking established doses and regimes of anti-hypertensives, anti-asthmatic treatment, statins, diabetic medication, thyroid supplementation, contraceptives, HRT, etc...

Drugs newly issued will require much closer surveillance; usually on a monthly basis (3 months following a new contraceptive pill or HRT). Prescriptions for medicines taken occasionally will continue to be subject to annual review.

Patients are required to send a written request for a repeat prescription, either by post or email, before it is issued. Telephone requests for repeat prescriptions are not accepted by the practice.

If it is a repeat of a medication which still has valid authorisations then a member of the office may print up the script to be reviewed by one of the doctors (with a copy of the request sighted), signed if accepted, and sent out to the patient or left to be collected. In exceptional circumstances it may be telephoned in to a pharmacy and there is a fee associated with this of £30.

If a medication has run out of authorisations in their electronic clinical records, which is indicated by a prompt, then the doctor needs to re-authorise it prior to printing up the prescription.