Repeat Prescriptions.

When you are starting a new medication and your dose is being adjusted (titrated), your prescription will initially be issued as an acute prescription. This allows time for the medication to settle and for you to raise any concerns with the Practice. If it is intended that you will continue with the medication, you will need to request a further prescription and ask for it to be added to your repeat prescriptions.
Please note: medications are not **automatically added to repeat prescriptions**. To make a request for your medication to be added as a repeat, you will have to contact the Practice. You can do this via :

- Using you NHS account (via the NHS website or NHS App)
- Rapid Health on our website
- Contacting the Practice directly (by phone, email or in-person)

If you encounter any problems with your medication or experience side effects, please contact the Practice to arrange a medication review.

Managing Repeat Prescriptions.

Repeat prescriptions should be requested in good time, **ideally at least 7 working days** before you are due to run out of medication (excluding bank holidays and weekends) to allow the Practice team time to process your request, obtain any necessary approvals, and ensure the prescription is safely issued.

You can manage repeat prescriptions in a number of ways: via the **NHS App**, through **Rapid Health** on our website, by emailing the Practice, contacting us in person, or by submitting the repeat slip attached to your last prescription with the required items ticked. For digital requests. Please allow 72 hours for processing your prescription (excluding weekends and public holidays).

For patients who prefer not to use digital tools, paper request slips are also accepted, these can be filled in and dropped off at the Practice reception. Please ensure all details are clearly written to avoid delays. It's important to only request medications that you are currently taking and require further supplies of. Please allow 120 hours for us to process your prescription (excluding weekends and public holidays). If you have stopped taking any medication or feel you no longer need it, please inform the Practice so that your medication records can be accurately maintained and reviewed.

Medication Availability and What to do if it's out of stock.

Occasionally, pharmacies may experience temporary shortages of certain medications. To ensure continuity of your treatment and avoid running out of essential medicines, please follow these steps:

- **Plan Ahead:** Request your medication at least one week before your current supply runs out. This provides enough time to address any availability issues.

- Check Multiple Pharmacies: If your regular pharmacy does not have your medication stock, we recommend trying alternative pharmacies first, as stock levels may vary.
- Contact the Practice if needed: If no pharmacies are able to supply your medication, or if you are informed that it is unavailable nationally, please contact the Practice for advice. We may be able to suggest an alternative medication.

Transferring Hospital Prescriptions to Your GP.

If you have been prescribed medication by the hospital, it is your responsibility to contact the Practice should you require an ongoing prescription. The hospital is expected to provide you with a sufficient supply of medication to cover the transition period, allowing time for the Practice to process and approve any further prescriptions. Please ensure you contact the Practice at the appropriate time, before your hospital-issued supply runs out, to allow sufficient time for your medication to be reviewed and processed. This helps prevent any interruptions to your treatment.

What to do if your Prescription request is declined.

Occasionally, your prescription request may be declined by the clinician. Common reasons include:

- Early request: Requesting a repeat prescription too soon, which may raise concerns about medication overuse
- Monitoring Requirements: Certain medications necessitate regular health checks (e.g blood tests, blood pressure monitoring) to ensure safe and effective use.
- Medication Reviews: Some prescriptions require periodic reviews to assess ongoing suitability and effectiveness
- Non-repeat Medications : Medications prescribed for short-term use or specific conditions (e.g. antibiotics, steroid creams) are typically not available for repeat prescriptions.
- Specialist Prescriptions: Medication initiated by hospital may require a formal communication before your GP can continue prescribing

If your prescription is declined:

1. Check for Communication: if you used the NHS App or another online service, review any messages or notes explaining the reason for decline.
2. Contact the Practice: Contact the Practice to discuss the reason for the decline and understand the necessary steps to resolve the issues.
3. Arrange Necessary Appointment: If a review or health check is required, schedule the appointment promptly to avoid delays in your medication regimen.

Prescription request timeframe:

Please be mindful of giving yourself and the Practice enough time to process your prescription request so your treatment is not affected.

For digital request, please allow 72 hours for us to process your prescription (excluding weekends and public holidays)

For paper requests, please allow 120 hours for us to process your prescription (excluding weekends and public holidays).

Sedation for Flying and Dental Appointments

The Practice does not prescribe sedative medication.

Flying and Flight Anxiety:

In line with the current airline and medical safety guidance, we do not prescribe sedating medication for flying or flight anxiety.

Such medications can affect individuals unpredictably, some may become agitated rather than calm, while others may become overly sedated, posing safety risks during emergencies.

For mild symptoms, over-the-counter remedies may be available at pharmacies. Additionally, many airlines offer or can direct you to flight anxiety courses, we encourage you to explore these options.

Dental Sedation

Dentists are able to prescribe certain medication including sedation.

The Practice does NOT prescribe sedation for dental procedures. We do not know what procedure you are having, what level of sedation is required and the impact this may have.

Being sedated can also affect your ability to consent to procedure, meaning it may not take place if you are overly sedated on the day.

Speak to your dentist about your options if you are worried about needing sedation.