

June 2016

## £2.7m each year in Wiltshire wasted on unused repeat prescriptions

NHS Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group is asking people to review their current repeat prescriptions to see if they still need all the items listed and to only order the medication that they need.

Making sure you have the right medication is important to help you stay well, however, not all prescriptions in Wiltshire are required; recent figures show that 1 in 15 repeat prescriptions ordered were not needed.

Alex Goddard, Deputy Head of Medicines Management said: "If we are to be able to continue to provide high quality health services in Wiltshire, we need the help of local people to enable us to do it.

"By double checking your prescription and by only ordering items that you need you can help us to save thousands of pounds every year. Try not to over order. Although it's comforting to keep a stock of medication in the cupboard, you may find that your medication expires before you have the chance to use it and you can always order more for when you need it. "

In Wiltshire, over 450,000 prescription items are dispensed each month. With the average cost of one prescription item currently calculated as £7.58, you can see just how much funding is needed across the county to help keep people well.

For any items that are returned unused Wiltshire CCG have to spend approximately £42,000 each year collecting and incinerating them as they cannot be used again, even if the medication is unopened.

Taking personal responsibility for your own medication will not only ensure that you continue to receive the right medication but it will also help us to save a considerable amount of money. These wasted medicines equate to a massive £2.7 million drain every year on an already challenged health budget.

If you have stopped using certain medication, or are taking a different dose, speak with your GP who can carry out a medication review with you to double check that your prescription is still right for you.



**PRESCRIPTION**

**Only order and collect what you need**  
Wasted repeat prescriptions costs Wiltshire  
£2.7million every year