

# Fortrose Medical Practice

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### Patient Information leaflet

#### **Chronic Medication Service (CMS) Serial Prescriptions**

##### **What is a serial prescription?**

A serial prescription looks like your normal prescription but is issued by your GP surgery for 24, 48 or 56 weeks. This saves the GP surgery time in issuing repeat prescriptions and makes collecting prescriptions much easier for you and the pharmacy. It will be issued in intervals by the pharmacy (usually 4 or 8 weeks). This will be dispensed by the pharmacy when it is due so it will be ready for you to collect before you run out of medication. You will not need to reorder the items on your serial prescription from the surgery or pharmacy.

##### **Why have my repeat medications been selected for serial prescribing?**

You have been identified as having a long term condition which requires medication. As your medication(s) is/are quite stable and you regularly attend reviews, it has been decided by your GP surgery that it is appropriate for you to have a long term prescription for these items.

##### **Is anything not covered by my serial prescription?**

Some items will not be included on your serial prescription, such as inhalers or painkillers, which are used only when you require them. These should be ordered by you in accordance with your usual surgery and pharmacy arrangements. Please ask your community pharmacy any questions you have about what is not covered by your serial prescription.

##### **What do I do if my medicines change?**

If your medicines change the GP surgery and pharmacy will coordinate to ensure that any changes are made to your serial prescription. It is good practice to check your medicines before you leave the pharmacy to ensure that the prescription has been updated. This prevents waste to the NHS and allows the pharmacy to organise a supply of any missing items.

Not all new medicines prescribed by your GP surgery will be added to the serial prescription. If it is short term or a medicine you are just starting on you will still need to still order these items yourself until such time as the GP surgery decides that it is appropriate to add to your serial prescription.

##### **What do I do if I am going away on holiday?**

Please let your community pharmacy know 1-2 weeks in advance when you will be away and how long for. This will enable them to have your prescription ready in time.

##### **Can I use other pharmacies?**

Once your CMS prescription is issued you can collect and take to any pharmacy. Whatever pharmacy you present your prescription at will be the same pharmacy you will collect from every 4/8 weeks for the duration of that prescription.

##### **Who can I contact for more information?**

Please speak to your community pharmacist if you have any further questions.