

# Emergency Prescriptions

## Colne Medical Centre policy regarding Emergency Prescriptions/High Risk Medications

The practice receives over 1000 prescription requests every week and requires a minimum of 3 working days to process a request for medication and send it to the chosen pharmacy. This allows the GP adequate time to review the medications being requested to ensure patient safety. The GP team is not always available to issue last minute prescription requests. Clinical staff are often in consultations and to ensure patient safety and privacy, interruptions must be kept to an absolute minimum.

The GP Partners have reviewed medicines prescribed by the surgery and produced a list of those deemed as urgent. If the medication you are prescribed is not listed, it will not be issued as urgent. Your request will be processed routinely within 3 working days.

The following are classified as emergency medication/high risk medications, in that they are medications that the patient could endure harm within 3 working days by missing the doses.

- Antimicrobials (Antibiotics/Antivirals/Antifungals)
- Salbutamol/Ventolin, Ipratropium, Terbutaline/Bricanyl
- GTN spray – Glyceryl trinitrate
- Propranolol/Flecainide/Atenolol – Verapamil / Diltiazem / Amiodarone / Bisoprolol, Propranolol / Atenolol
- Isosorbide Mononitrate (ISMN)
- Insulin
- Adrenaline pen – EpiPen
- Contraceptive pills (a short supply will be provided)
- Prednisolone/Dexamethasone (Steroids) if used daily
- Palliative care patient medications (End of Life)
- Opioids (Oxycodone/Morphine/Fentanyl/Buprenorphine)
- Olanzapine, Risperidone
- DMARDs (Disease-Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drug) Methotrexate/hydroxychloroquine/Sulfasalazine/leflunomide/Ciclosporin/Azathioprine
- All anticoagulants – (Warfarin & Direct Oral Anticoagulants (DOACs) = Rivaroxaban / Apixaban/Edoxaban/Dabigatran)
- Parkinson's disease medications
- Lithium
- Epilepsy, (not for pain management) – Phenytoin/Sodium Valproate/Levetiracetam/Carbamazepine
- Specialised baby milks

### **Controlled Drugs (CDs)**

If medication has been lost and it is a controlled drug, then this must be reported to the police to gain a crime reference number. Those who have controlled medications will have been made aware that lost prescriptions and early requests will not be dealt with urgently.

### **Holiday Medication**

Holidays are normally booked weeks or months in advance, therefore when preparing for your holiday, please remember to request your routine medication allowing the normal 3 working days for processing. We can only provide a maximum of 3 months medication, and we may request a patient to provide supporting documents. We are unable to provide emergency prescriptions for holiday medication.

### **Hospital Prescriptions**

When you are seen at the hospital and are given a hospital prescription, you should not leave the hospital without attending the hospital pharmacy to collect the medication. A hospital prescription is not valid in community pharmacies. If the hospital pharmacy happens to be closed, you must make plans for the medication to be collected the next day. **Please note, some hospital medications are not licensed to be prescribed in general practice.** If the hospital doctor writes to the practice asking the GP to prescribe medication, we require 3 working days from receiving the letter to process the request.

### **Repeat Medication**

Our surgery policy is to process and issue prescriptions within 3 working days, and we are committed to doing this. Repeat medication can be requested through your nominated pharmacy, online, a written request posted to the GP surgery or by the NHS app.

#### **We do not take prescription requests over the phone.**

Medication can be requested 14 days in advance; anything before this time will be rejected unless there is a valid reason as to why the request is early.

*The practice does not have any control over the time taken for the pharmacy to dispense medication, please check directly with your chosen pharmacy.*

Please respect our staff. Our reception and administrative staff are to always follow this policy, and they are not authorised to make any exceptions. Staff are not allowed to interrupt the duty GP during surgery. This policy is put in place to protect our patients and our staff. We will not tolerate any abuse to, or of our staff as they are following instructions given to them by the Partners.

Thank you for your co-operation