02/08/2018

Waste Medicines Campaign

Hodge Hill Family Practice PPG meeting

Excellence in Commissioning Through Excellent Primary Care
Why are we doing this?

• **Medicines Waste**: The practice is participating in a CCG wide waste medicines campaign to ensure that repeat prescription ordering processes do not contribute to medicines waste.

• **To help reduce medicines waste**

• **To reduce risk from medicines and ensure patient safety**

• **To promote the safe and correct use of medicines**
Medicines waste

- Data and statistics show us that medicines use is currently sub-optimal and **up to 50% of medicines are not taken as intended**

- Between **5 to 8% of all unplanned hospital admissions are due to issues with medication** (this figure rises to 17% in the over 65s)

- Each day, 15 under-fives are admitted to hospital. **Medicines are the cause of over 70% of hospital admissions for poisoning in under-fives**

- Unused prescription medicines cost the NHS across the UK over **£300 million every year** (estimated £110 million worth of medicine returned to pharmacies).
Did you know, locally £4.5million every year could pay for ...

• 177  MORE community nurses, or

• 1213  MORE hip replacements, or

• 297  MORE drug treatment courses for breast cancer, or

• 4500  MORE drug treatment courses for Alzheimer's, or

• 4682  MORE cataract operations

Figures calculated and adapted from http://www.medicinewaste.com/
What causes Medicines Waste?

Multifactorial – ALL healthcare professionals and patients can help to reduce medication waste

- Repeat/Habitual Dispensing
- Stock Piling/Over ordering
- Inefficient Practice Processes
- Patient Non-Adherence

What can you do to help reduce waste medicines?

- Check what medicines you still have at home before re-ordering. You and/or your carer are the best people to know what medicines you need.

- Some medicines are not meant to be taken regularly – only order the items you need.

- If you do not order a medication because you have enough at home you can still request it in the future, it will not be removed from your repeat medicines list.

- If you have stopped taking or have concerns about any of your medicines, let your GP know. They can talk about your medicine issues and find the right medicine for you.

- Unused medicines kept at home are a safety risk for children and others who might take them.

- Unwanted medicines cannot be recycled or used by anyone else even if the medicine is unopened.

- Return out-of-date and unwanted medicines to a local pharmacy, where they will be disposed of safely. NEVER dispose of your unwanted medicines yourself and NEVER flush down the sink, toilet or put in a bin.
What is changing?

Most patients are able to take responsibility for ordering their own repeat prescriptions. This is safer, and evidence from other areas of the country shows that it can help to reduce medicines waste.

For this reason Hodge Hill Family Practice will be asking patients and their carers to make arrangements to order prescriptions directly from the surgery.

The surgery now offers a variety of methods for patients to order their repeat prescription including online ordering, dropping the request into the practice or by post.

Later this year, community pharmacies will be informed that they can no longer order repeat prescriptions on behalf of patients at this practice. This will not affect pharmacy collection or delivery services.

Specials arrangements will be considered for patients who require additional support with the ordering of their medication.