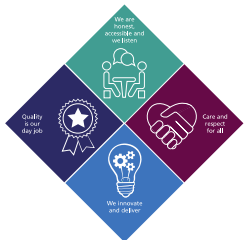


Medicines Waste

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Scale of the problem

An estimated £300million of medications are wasted annually within primary care in England¹

- Equivalent to over £2million within NHS Stafford & Surrounds, Cannock Chase and SE Staffordshire & Seisdon CCGs.
- It is estimated that £6 million of medicines are wasted each year across Staffordshire!!

Some wastage is inevitable however a lot of waste is preventable
50% waste is thought to be avoidable

¹Evaluation of the Scale, Causes and Costs of Waste Medicines (November 2010), York Health Economics Consortium/The School of Pharmacy, University of London



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What happens to wasted medicines

- After leaving the pharmacy, returned medicines cannot be reused for other patients due to strict regulations.
 - as the integrity and storage of the product cannot be guaranteed.
- Once returned, waste medicines are therefore incinerated – this is at additional cost to the local NHS!
- Over 100 tonnes of waste medicines are destroyed each year in Staffordshire.



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Causes of medicines waste

- Discontinuation due to recovery, intolerable side-effects or lack of effect
- Patient may die or require palliative care
- Stock-piling of medications
- Repeat prescription ordering and issuing processes are not robust enough
- Vulnerable patients unable to take their own medication do not get appropriate assistance
- Admission to hospital



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GP PLEDGES

We pledge to...

- ✓ process repeat medicines within 2 working days of receiving the request
- ✓ only add medicines to the repeat medicines list, once the patient has been stabilised on that medicine
- ✓ We will regularly review patients' repeat medicines
- ✓ use a 28 day (monthly) repeat prescription cycle for the majority of patients to help reduce waste
- ✓ issue "Batch prescriptions" to be managed under the Repeat Dispensing Service for suitable stable patients, to help reduce unnecessary workload
- ✓ refer patients under the New Medicines Services to Community Pharmacy to provide support to patients on any eligible new medicines to minimise re-consultation due to non compliance



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PHARMACY PLEDGES

We pledge to...

- ✓ gain written consent from patients before managing repeat ordering services on their behalf
- ✓ ask the patient about how much medication they have at home before re-ordering to avoid unnecessary waste
- ✓ not accept “please order all items” instruction from patients/carers/representatives, or include ‘as required’ items in automatic ordering services
- ✓ encourage all patients to check their bag for items not needed prior to leaving the pharmacy or on delivery
- ✓ inform the prescriber about medicines which are no longer collected or ordered
- ✓ make sure that repeat medicines are available to collect within 2 working days of receipt of the prescription



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PUBLIC PLEDGES

The public are asked to pledge:

- ✓ I will check what medicines I have before ordering more.
- ✓ I will check my bag of medicines as soon as it's given to me and hand back any I don't need.
- ✓ I will let my GP practice or Pharmacy know if I don't need any of my medicines.



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MEDICINES MATTER!



£6 million is wasted every year across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent on medicines that people don't use. Those medicines end up being thrown away because they can't be used by anyone else. The NHS hasn't got this money to spare. We need every penny to provide healthcare.

We are asking Pharmacies, GP practices and everyone who takes or orders medicines to play their part in making sure that we don't waste money in this way.

Here are the most important things that we can sign up to do to help cut down on this waste and save millions.

PUBLIC

- ✓ I will check what medicines I have before ordering more.
- ✓ I will check my bag of medicines as soon as it's given to me and hand back any I don't need.
- ✓ I will let my GP practice or Pharmacy know if I don't need any of my medicines.

PHARMACIES

- ✓ We will check what medicines a patient already has before ordering more.
- ✓ We will ask patients to check their bag of medicines before leaving the pharmacy or on delivery, and hand back any they don't need.
- ✓ We will inform GP practices about medicines that patients no longer order or collect.

GP PRACTICES

- ✓ We will only add a medicine to a repeat prescription once a patient is stable on it.
- ✓ We will use a 28 day (monthly) repeat prescription for most patients.
- ✓ We will regularly review patients' repeat medicines.



Working in partnership:

Cannock Chase CCG, East Staffordshire CCG, North Staffordshire CCG,
South East Staffordshire and Seisdon Peninsula CCG, Stafford and Surrounds CCG and Stoke-on-Trent CCG

TOGETHER
WE'RE BETTER

PPG Waste Champions

The Waste Champions will help to promote and publicise locally, the ways in which the public can help to reduce waste by reminding people to:

- check what medicines they have before ordering more
- check their bag of medicines as soon as it's given to them and hand back any they don't need
- let their GP practice or pharmacy know if they don't need any of their medicines

We are planning on holding meetings for PPG Waste Champions in the north, south and east of the county, so if your PPG has nominated person for this role, please pass on their contact details to penny.gibbs2@nhs.net and we will let them know once dates have been fixed.



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Any questions?

For further information you can contact the
CCG medicines optimisation on
southstaffs.medsoptimisation@nhs.net



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