

Prescriptions - Frequently Asked Questions

1) ***"I've just seen the doctor and he has not given me a prescription, have I wasted his time?"***

Many conditions will improve without any drug treatment. At least one third of surgery consultations will end with no prescription being issued. If your doctor does not prescribe for you please do not think you have wasted his or her or your time.

2) ***"I've just seen the doctor and he has not given me a prescription, is he trying to save money?"***

No. Please see the above question and answer. We will prescribe the best drug for you although we do have to take cost into consideration. For instance many drugs we prescribe are by ingredient-name rather than trade-name e.g. salbutamol for Ventolin. This is called generic prescribing. It is considered good practice and we are recommended to prescribe in this way.

3) ***"The doctor prescribed a drug for me and the chemist gave a drug made in Greece. Is the doctor trying to save money?"***

No. We have no control over what the chemist dispenses. The chemists may be able to obtain supplies of a drug from overseas at a discount. Most branded drugs are subject to the same quality control as drugs manufactured in the UK but you may not be able to understand the leaflet.

4) ***"I've lost my re-order slip, do I have to make an appointment to get a new one?"***

No, simply write out the drugs you require (copy the names off the old bottles) the details of the repeat prescriptions are all held on the computer and a new re-order slip will be produced with the new prescription.

5) ***"It is several years since I had symptoms but they have all come back again. Can I get a repeat prescription without bothering the doctor?"***

A bit of common sense is needed here. For instance if you have recurrent hay fever symptoms then if you drop us a note we would be pleased to repeat your previous treatment whereas if you are getting recurrent heart pains then we would obviously prefer to see you! Of course in real life things are never so simple so if in doubt arrange an appointment.

