

Waste Medicines – Only order what you need!

The Coltishall and Spixworth Patient Participation Group are supporting the Wasted Medicines Campaign which is about:

- Encouraging and supporting better use of prescribed medicines.
- Reducing the amount of unused and partially used medicines.
- Improving Patient safety.

Tackling medicine waste is an effective way of assisting with reducing the cost of providing medical services, allowing extra funds to be allocated to front line resources. Prescribed medicines account for a considerable percentage of the NHS budget - The NHS spends £13.8 billion per year on medicines.

A Department of Health report suggested that £300 million* of prescribed medication is wasted, although this figure is considered conservative.

Of the £300 million*:

- An estimated £110 million of unused and wasted medicine is returned to pharmacies for safe disposal annually.
- £90 million worth of unused prescription medicines are stored in people's homes.
- £50 million worth of NHS supplied medicines are disposed of annually by Care Homes.

What can you do to help?

- Check the medication you have in your cupboard – only reorder what you need for the next month - please do not stock pile!
- Return any unused medicines to the pharmacy or surgery – these cannot be recycled and are a safety risk.
- Discuss your medication with your GP or pharmacist on a regular basis.
- If you are a carer, please tell the pharmacy or surgery if you know, or have concerns that, your client has a large stock of medication. This may mean that they are not taking their medication!

Your support and help with the Campaign could have a very significant impact with the way that medicine is managed to release funds back into the front line of the NHS.

On behalf of Coltishall and Spixworth surgeries