

Reducing medicines waste – changing ordering systems

About this session

An estimated £2 million is wasted in Sefton each year on medicines that are not used or needed. This money could be better used to provide different or additional healthcare and treatments that benefits more of our residents.

Once they have been dispensed, any unused medicines you have cannot be reused – even if you return them to your chemist unopened. So, we are looking at ways to reduce the amount of medicines that are wasted in Sefton and we all have a role to play in this.

As a patient, you can make sure you don't automatically reorder repeat prescription that you no longer need. If it is some time since your medicines were last reviewed, they may no longer be the best treatment for your condition, so you might want to ask your practice for a medicines review.

At the CCG, we have been looking at schemes to reduce medicines waste that have been successful in different parts of the country and we would like your views. As well as saving money that can be used for other much needed NHS services, these schemes better support patients to manage and monitor their health more safely.

Automatic reordering of repeat medicines from your chemist

Many residents are signed up with their chemist for an automatic delivery of their repeat prescriptions. Whilst this can be convenient for some, there are many disadvantages to this system. It means that GP practices are not involved in the ordering of medicines for patients on the scheme and will not be regularly reviewing their medication. As a result, many people continue to take medicines that are no longer effective or necessary for their condition. In addition, people often end up with a stock of medicines they feel they no longer need and which cannot be reused.

Your views

We will discuss a scheme that has been successful in Luton and ask if you think it could work in Sefton. The scheme means that automatic reordering of repeat prescriptions by chemists has now been phased out. As a result, medicines wastage has been reduced and patient care improved.

You will have the opportunity to share your views as part of the group discussion, but please share your views here if you prefer