

Medicines Waste Campaign

Unused prescription medicines cost the NHS in the UK an estimated **£300million** every year. This could pay for ...

11,778 MORE community nurses or

80,906 MORE hip replacements or

19,799 MORE drug treatment courses for breast cancer or

300,000 MORE drug treatment courses for Alzheimer's or

312,175 MORE cataract operations

How Can You Help?

Unused medicines are a safety risk

- ✓ Please let your GP or Pharmacist know if you've stopped taking any of your medicines
- ✓ Check what medicines you still have at home before re-ordering
- ✓ Discuss your medication with your GP or Pharmacist on a regular basis
- ✓ Think carefully before ticking all the boxes on your repeat prescription forms and only tick those you really need
- ✓ If you don't need the medicine please don't order it! If you need the medicine in the future you can still request it.
- ✓ If you need to go into hospital, please remember to take all your medicines with you in a clearly marked bag.
- ✓ Please also remember that your medicines are prescribed only for you; it's not safe to share them with anyone else.

How Can You Help?

Remember that unused medicines cannot be recycled

- ✓ Even if you never open them, once medicines have left the Pharmacy, they cannot be recycled or used by anyone else.
- ✓ Please bring your unused medicines to the Pharmacy for safe disposal.
- ✓ NEVER dispose of your unused or unwanted medicines down the toilet

Unused medicines are a safety risk

- ✓ Return out of date medicines to your pharmacy or dispensary for safe disposal
- ✓ If your medicines change - return your old medicines to the pharmacy for safe disposal to avoid mixing them up with your new medicines
- ✓ Don't stockpile medication - it is a safety risk for children and others who might take them
- ✓ Store medicines in an appropriate place out of reach of children

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THINK SAFE, DON'T WASTE

- Are you still taking ALL the medicines on your prescription?
- Tell your GP if you have stopped taking any medicines.
- If you don't take it, don't tick it!
- Unwanted medicines in the home are a risk to everyone.
- Unused medicines cannot be recycled.

Before ordering your next repeat prescription talk to your GP or Pharmacist and ask them to review your current needs.

