

Non-medical prescribing

This leaflet explains more about non-medical prescribing. If you have any further questions, please contact us (see back page for details).

What is non-medical prescribing?

Doctors and dentists are normally known as medical prescribers. Over the past 10 years or more, changes in law have allowed other health professionals (such as nurses, pharmacists, optometrists, physiotherapists) to prescribe medicines, provided they have completed a period of specialist training and are registered with their professional body. They are called 'non-medical prescribers'.

A number of healthcare professionals at Guy's and St Thomas' are qualified as non-medical prescribers and are authorised to write a prescription for you.

There are two types:

1. **Independent prescribers**, who are able to prescribe medicines for medical conditions within their speciality and competence.
2. **Supplementary prescribers**, who can prescribe further supplies of medicines and monitor your treatment, once a doctor or dentist has given an initial diagnosis and agreed on the medicines that should be prescribed for you.

We will ask whether you agree to receiving prescriptions from a non-medical prescriber. You may say no, or ask for more time to think about it. Whatever you decide, you will still be given the best appropriate treatment and care.

Is it safe?

Yes. Your non-medical prescriber will have undergone additional training and will have been approved by a professional body so that they can prescribe for you.

What can my non-medical prescriber prescribe for me?

Your non-medical prescriber will only prescribe medicines for you that fall within their specialist area of practice. They will adhere to their Code of Professional Conduct and they are professionally accountable for their prescribing practice.

Can I still see a doctor?

Yes. However there are times when an advanced nurse practitioner or consultant nurse/midwife will be the main person delivering care to the service you are under so it may take some time to arrange an appointment for you with the doctor.

If you would like to see a doctor, please speak to your non-medical prescriber so he/she can arrange for this to happen as soon as possible.

If your non-medical prescriber has any concerns about your condition or your medicines they will speak to your doctor and may arrange for you to see your doctor.

What can I do if I am not happy with the decisions made?

Discuss any concerns that you might have with your non-medical prescriber, as an open and honest approach is the only way we can improve the quality of our service. Please ask a member of staff for a comment card, so that you can raise your concerns or complaints.

How will I get a repeat prescription?

That will depend on the medicines you are taking. Your non-medical prescriber may want to monitor the effectiveness of your treatment and then decide whether you need a repeat prescription or you may need to continue your treatment with your GP. You will always be told where to get repeat prescriptions.

Who can I contact for more information?

If you have any further questions about your treatment or your medicines (for example, whether there are any side effects) please ask your non-medical prescriber when you see them or call them using the contact details below:

Non-medical prescriber's name: _____

Contact telephone number: _____

Please remember to bring all the medicines that you are taking with you whenever you visit the hospital. Bring all the medicines that you have been prescribed and all the medicines that you use, including any herbal medicines, vitamins and any medicines that you have bought or that have been bought for you.

Appointments at King's

We have teamed up with King's College Hospital in a partnership known as King's Health Partners Academic Health Sciences Centre. We are working together to give our patients the best possible care, so you might find we invite you for appointments at King's. To make sure everyone you meet always has the most up-to-date information about your health, we may share information about you between the hospitals.

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about non-medical prescribing, please call our Pharmacy Medicines Helpline on **020 7188 8748** (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday).

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/leaflets

Pharmacy Medicines Helpline

If you have any questions or concerns about your medicines, please speak to the staff caring for you or call our helpline.

t: 020 7188 8748 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

To make comments or raise concerns about the Trust's services, please contact PALS. Ask a member of staff to direct you to the PALS office or:

t: 020 7188 8801 at St Thomas' **t:** 020 7188 8803 at Guy's **e:** pals@gstt.nhs.uk

Language Support Services

If you need an interpreter or information about your care in a different language or format, please get in touch using the following contact details.

t: 020 7188 8815 **fax:** 020 7188 5953

NHS 111

Offers medical help and advice from fully trained advisers supported by experienced nurses and paramedics. Available over the phone 24 hours a day.

t: 111

NHS Choices

Provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make choices about your health.

w: www.nhs.uk

Become a member of your local hospitals, and help shape our future

Membership is free and it is completely up to you how much you get involved. To become a member of our Foundation Trust, you need to be 18 years of age or over, live in Lambeth, Southwark, Lewisham, Wandsworth or Westminster or have been a patient at either hospital in the last five years. To join:

t: 0848 143 4017 **e:** members@gstt.nhs.uk **w:** www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk

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