

Press Release



28 July 2014

Let's Talk Medicines: It's OK to ask

People across the Scottish Borders are being asked to take a fresh look at their repeat prescriptions as part of the 'Let's Talk Medicines' campaign.

NHS Borders are encouraging people on repeat prescriptions to look again at the medicines they collect and tell their GP practices of any they no longer take, or feel they no longer need.

Alison Wilson, NHS Borders Director of Pharmacy explained: "Patient safety is the main reason for this request as your medicines are an important part of the care which your GP provides. Things can change over time and if your medicine records are not up to date, your treatment in the future could be affected.

She added: "We know many patients, especially those who are taking several different medicines, may be unsure why each medicine has been prescribed or how often they should be taking it. Others may experience side effects that they are worried about or have stopped taking certain medicines. This may be because they no longer think they need them but have never mentioned this to their GP.

"Whatever the issue we want people to know that it's always ok to ask."

"Carers who pick up prescriptions for a member of their family can also get advice from their pharmacist if they have any questions, concerns or to make sure that the patient is taking their medicines correctly. This is particularly important for people who are taking several medicines as it's easy to get confused about how often they should be taking each one."

If you are not sure what your medicines are for or you are worried about using them please talk to your GP Practice or Pharmacist. NHS Borders also have a Prescribing Support Team who are available on 01896 827708 between 9am and 5pm Monday- Friday.

Ends

Please contact the Communications Team on 01896 828287 / 8261 for further information