

Port Sorell Medical Centre Prescription Policy

REQUEST FOR REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS FOR DRUG OF DEPENDENCE INCLUDING BENZODIAZEPINES

Patients should be aware of their responsibilities in requesting prescriptions for drugs of dependence, including benzodiazepines. Patients should note the following:

- All requests for repeat scripts for drugs of dependence will go to your usual doctor, the only exception is when your usual doctor is away or on leave, then an appointment with another doctor will be arranged.
- All requests require a clinical review by your doctor. If it appears to your doctor that there is no improvement in your daily function or quality of life from the controlled substance, your medication may be discontinued.
- As a patient, you agree to and understand that your usual doctor reserves the right to perform random or unannounced urine drug testing. This is a safety issue.
- Patients are responsible for their prescriptions. Lost prescriptions will not be replaced.
- Repeat prescriptions will be assessed by your usual Doctor for clinical requirement when requested.
- Patients have the responsibility to schedule appointments for the next benzodiazepine prescription before leaving the clinic or within 3 days of the last clinic visit.
- Patients have the responsibility for keeping medications in a safe and secure place, such as a locked cabinet or safe. If medications are lost, misplaced, or stolen your doctor may choose not to replace the medications or to taper and discontinue the medications.
- Patients have the responsibility for taking medications as directed and understand that increasing the dose without the close supervision of your doctor could lead to cessation of prescribing. Early requests for repeat scripts will not be performed.
- Patients have the responsibility to set appointments to review ongoing therapy. This should be monthly and made at the last clinic appointment.
- **No walk-in appointments** for medication refills will be granted.
- **No online requests** for S4 and S8 drugs will be processed.

PAIN MEDICATION POLICY

Patients should be aware of their responsibilities in requesting prescriptions for pain medications. Patients should note the following:

- Excluding terminal cancer, our policy is that we will not prescribe “painkiller” medications:
 - At your first appointment.
 - Via a phone request.
 - Without a proper assessment.
 - Over long term.

Disclaimer

The information set out in this publication is current at the date of first publication and is intended for use as a guide of a general nature only and may or may not be relevant to particular patients or circumstances. Nor is this publication exhaustive of the subject matter. It is no substitute for individual inquiry. Compliance with any recommendations does not guarantee discharge of the duty of care owed to patients. The RACGP and its employees and agents have no liability (including for negligence) to any users of the information contained in this publication.

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