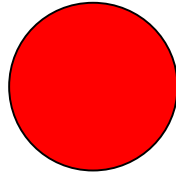


STOP!



Every year the NHS counts the cost of unused or wasted medicines.

Last year at Ash Tree House Surgery alone we estimate that £225,000 was spent on unused (stockpiled) or wasted medicines.

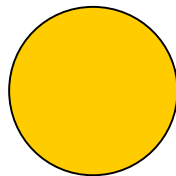
This is an unnecessary cost that we cannot afford - this same amount of money could buy other essential services for patients of this practice, for example it could shorten waiting lists and pay for:

35 Coronary Bypass Operations

27 Hip Operations

350 Cataract Operations

THINK!



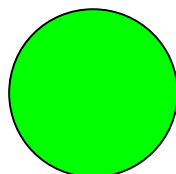
There are a number of steps that can be taken by patients to help reduce the amount of money we are wasting on medicines including:

- Only ordering repeat prescriptions for the medicines you need.

Stockpiling (keeping more than one month's supply of medicines) is very costly for the NHS and Ash Tree House Surgery. Keeping more medicines than you need means that money that could be spent providing other services is being wasted paying for medicines that you do not yet need or do not use. This could ultimately mean that health services that you may require in future may not be available or will take longer for you to get them.

- Check which medicines you have before ordering your next month's prescription. You **may not need to order all the items** on your repeat list **every** month.
- Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have stopped using a medicine you are still being prescribed or if you want to stop using it.
- Keep your repeat prescription list up to date with your practice or pharmacy.
- Don't hoard medicines for a 'rainy day' or for the future.
- Return any unwanted medicines to the chemist for safe disposal.

GO AHEAD!



Order what you need for one month just before your current month's medicines run out.

N.B. Remember to give 48 hours notice for repeat prescriptions to be processed.

