

# Changes to Gabapentin and Pregabalin Prescriptions

Changes to the law surrounding the supply of medicines coming into force from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 mean that prescriptions for **gabapentin and pregabalin** will be more tightly controlled.

Gabapentin and pregabalin are safe and effective for conditions such as neuropathic pain relief, anxiety or epilepsy when taken as prescribed by your GP or specialist. However, there are increasing reports of patients coming to harm when it is misused and this is the reason for the additional controls. **You may be asked to attend the practice for review of your medicine.**

A prescription for gabapentin or pregabalin prescription now requires the following before it can be supplied by the pharmacy.

These include;

- The prescription is only valid for 28 days from the date printed on it and must be dispensed by a pharmacy within that time.
- The practice has to issue a maximum of 30 days' supply on prescription—**quantities may be reduced** to 28 days supply to comply with this.
- Gabapentin and pregabalin are no longer allowed to be supplied via the 'Chronic Medication Service' offered by community pharmacies. Prescriptions need to be issued by the practice each month.

These changes will take time to put in place, so **please be patient** whilst we try to ensure the prescriptions we issue are legally correct. **If they are not correct, the pharmacy cannot dispense them.**

**Please note** - Prescriptions for these medicines:

**Will not be replaced if lost**

**May not be issued early**