*Practice policy template for repeat prescriptions*

Purpose:

To inform patients about practice policies regarding repeat prescriptions for benzodiazepines.

For more information, please refer to the RACGPs [Prescribing drugs of dependence in general practice – Part B: Benzodiazepines.](https://www.racgp.org.au/clinical-resources/clinical-guidelines/key-racgp-guidelines/view-all-racgp-guidelines/prescribing-drugs-of-dependence/prescribing-drugs-of-dependence-part-b)

[Insert practice name] repeat prescription policy

*Current as of: [insert date of last revision]*

*Version no: [insert version number]*

*Review date: [insert date]*

REQUEST FOR REPEAT DRUG OF DEPENDENCE PRESCRIPTIONS – 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.
* 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 are generally written for a maximum of 1 month supply and will be filled at the same pharmacy.
* 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.

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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