



PRESCRIPTION RENEWAL POLICY

1. In general, our physicians will provide a prescription for a duration that they consider appropriate, or for as long as is indicated before a patient should be reassessed.
 - a. Short term (i.e. days) – e.g. antibiotics
 - b. Mid term (i.e. days to weeks) – e.g. pain, heartburn, mental health
 - c. Long term (i.e. months to a year) – e.g. diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease
2. The purpose of a reassessment by your physician before a medication is renewed is:
 - a. to monitor for benefits and/or side effects
 - b. to determine if any other monitoring is required – e.g. blood work
 - c. to determine if a dose adjustment is needed
 - d. to determine if the medication is still indicated
3. Please note that it can take up to FIVE (5) business days for a faxed prescription renewal request to be processed and re-filled.

Things that YOU can do to ensure your prescriptions are renewed on time:

1. **ASK** your doctor if and when they want to see you again to review your medications.
 - a) Your doctor may require you to come into the clinic to be assessed at the time your next prescription renewal is due, or may feel it is appropriate to renew medication(s) by fax.
 - b) Faxed renewals are considered an uninsured serviced, and may be charged a fee, while in person reassessments and prescription renewals are covered by OHIP (i.e. no fee).
2. **PLAN** for your prescription renewal at least 1-2 weeks **BEFORE** you will need your medication(s) renewed, either by booking an appointment with your doctor **OR** by having your pharmacy send us a request. Set a reminder for yourself, if needed.
3. **CHECK** with your pharmacist to see how many refills you have left on your medication, or check the number on your medication bottle(s). When you pick up your last refill, ask your pharmacist to send us a prescription renewal request, or contact the office to book a non-urgent appointment with your doctor to review your health and renew your medication(s), depending on your understanding of your physician's expectations (see point #1 above).
4. If you have an upcoming appointment with your doctor but your medication will run out before then, **CONSIDER ASKING THE PHARMACIST TO EXTEND** your prescription until your appointment date. Pharmacists can extend any previously prescribed medications on their license, though they do have the right to decline to do so. If they decline, please ask them to send us a prescription renewal request marked as urgent.
5. **INQUIRE** if your pharmacy uses PrescribeIT[®]. Our clinic strongly prefers this electronic system for processing prescription renewal requests, as it uses a secure email platform which is more efficient and reliable than fax.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter; as we remain, a central part of your health.