

Dear Patient

I am writing to inform you of a change in practice policy regarding the use of Rescue Packs of antibiotics (e.g amoxicillin, clarithromycin and doxycycline) and steroids (e.g. prednisolone) to treat exacerbations of respiratory diseases such as Asthma and COPD.

From November 2023 we will no longer add rescue packs of antibiotics or steroids to your repeat prescription for you to order as needed. If you start using your rescue pack at home, you will need to call the surgery and book a telephone review with your GP for a review of your symptoms.

Ideally, you should speak to your GP within 3 days of starting your rescue pack of antibiotics or steroids. When you call the surgery to book this appointment, please request an urgent on the day GP appointment and explain that you have started to take your rescue pack of antibiotics and/or corticosteroids.

Your GP will discuss your symptoms over the telephone and will arrange a face to face review if needed. Your GP will then advise whether you need to complete the course of antibiotics or steroids and will issue a prescription for a replacement rescue pack if appropriate.

Any prescription requests for rescue packs of antibiotics or corticosteroids received via your local pharmacy, online using our website or via the NHS App will be declined and you will be advised to call and book a GP telephone call for a review.

This change to practice policy has come about as part of our commitment to the safe and responsible use of antibiotics and is based on recommendations made by the Gloucestershire respiratory consultants.

Here is some further information which you might find useful

[Managing COPD flare-ups | Asthma + Lung UK \(asthmaandlung.org.uk\)](https://www.asthmaandlung.org.uk/Managing-COPD-flare-ups-Asthma-Lung-UK)

Yours Sincerely

Emily Truscott

St George's Surgery

Clinical Pharmacist on behalf of the GP Partners