

Why is my prescription different/odd/for a date that hasn't happened yet/half an inch thick?

Change?

We are changing computer systems, this accounts for some difference in appearance and we hope not many mistakes in copying. Check and tell us if there is one of the latter.

Cleverness and meanness?

You may have been given a post-dated prescription, or a bundle of several “batched” prescriptions to cover a period into the future.

This is a great convenience for us, and we hope a convenience for you.

One of the major causes of it is pressure from the NHS – locally the Primary Care Trust who contract for our services to you – to not give you more than 28 days worth of medicine at a time. Although the arguments they use to justify this are suspect, their capacity to cause trouble is considerable, and we are reluctant to go to the barricades on this matter. Feel free to if you wish, but not against us. In theory they work for you.

Economy through competition?

It may be described generically – by the name of the medicine rather than the brand name of the manufacturer. We think these are effective medicines, and that the NHS gets better value for your money from them than from brands once there are two suppliers for a medicine. The NHS is very keen on them and again, if you really don't like them we would be obliged if you would remark on this to your MP as well as to us.

If you take one and assert it does not work properly, like the brand, you really should send it and a complaint to the Defect Medicines Commission in Putney. We'll give you its address and what its new name is this week on request.

For further information see the Practice website <http://iscamp.co.uk>

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Draft 3