

**REPLY BY THE PRESIDENT OF
THE COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE
TO QUESTIONS POSED BY DEPUTY CAMERON PURSUANT TO RULE 14 OF THE
RULES OF PROCEDURE**

The cost of seeing a GP in Guernsey is already prohibitively high, with many islanders struggling to afford the £70 appointment fee. In other jurisdictions, pharmacists can directly provide repeat prescriptions for medications related to cardiovascular conditions, diabetes, respiratory illnesses, and more – reducing unnecessary costs and easing GP workloads. Given that Guernsey continues to charge patients for repeat prescriptions, adding further financial strain, why has HSC not implemented a pharmacist-led repeat prescription system similar to those successfully used elsewhere?

Prescriptions can currently be issued for up to six months by a General Practitioner and in many cases it is beneficial for a medical review to be undertaken before repeat prescriptions can be issued further. However, the Committee has previously considered and supported recommendations to further explore changes which might benefit patients with regards to repeat prescriptions.

Some provisional scoping has been undertaken but the substantive policy, contractual and legislative changes required to facilitate such changes, and the associated funding, will be explored as part of the strategic portfolio for sustainable health and care in the Government Work Plan 2025-29.

The Committee remains supportive of primary care and pharmacy reform, which could see an expansion of services provided by community pharmacies such as repeat prescribing and treatment of common conditions, among other things.

Date of receipt of questions: 7th January 2025

Date of response: 21st January 2025