

# BCP – Patient Advisory Group News Letter

March 2019



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## BOLTON COMMUNITY PRACTICE PATIENT ADVISORY GROUP (PAG)



The next meeting of the PAG will take place on **Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019** at Waters Meeting Health Centre, commencing at 2.30 pm.

## Important Notice

### Prescribing of Gabapentin and Pregabalin

Please note of as 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 prescription drugs pregabalin and gabapentin are to be reclassified as class C controlled substances.

This is based on experts highlighting rising numbers of fatalities linked to the drugs. The change means it will be illegal to possess pregabalin and gabapentin without a prescription and it will be illegal to supply or sell them to others.

The following changes will therefore be made to prescribing of the medication:

- The prescription will need to be printed physically and signed by the doctor (it cannot be sent electronically to the pharmacy)
- The prescription will expire within 28 days of issue date
- A maximum of 30 days' supply can be issued at one given time

When collecting the medication, the pharmacy:

- May ask you to sign the back of the prescription and confirm your identity
- Will not be able to supply any emergency supplies of the medication
- Any drugs owing from the pharmacy do will need to be collected within 28 days of the issue date

If you have any further queries about these drugs, please contact the surgery to speak to the practice pharmacist or contact your local community pharmacy for more information.

## Patient Advisory Group (PAG)

PAG members are patient representatives from the four surgeries in Bolton Community Practice (BCP) and their aim is to help BCP provide services which benefit all patients.

PAG also aims to keep you informed, via this Newsletter, of changes to services and new services which are provided by BCP.

If you would like more information about the Patient Advisory Group check out the website <http://bcp.cic.pag.co.uk> or email [bcp.cic.pag@gmail.com](mailto:bcp.cic.pag@gmail.com).