Help us to Reduce Medicines Waste

Last year, wasted medicines cost NHS Fife £2.1 million, which could be used to fund other health services, with 28 tonnes of unused medicines returned in Fife.

www.nhsfife.org/takestock
Causes of Avoidable Medicines Waste

- Over-ordering by patients, carers and staff.
- Current medicines being returned inappropriately.
- Patient’s own drugs not being used, transferred or sent home.

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We can Make a Difference by:

- Checking what medicines we have before ordering more
- Using patient’s own medicines when available and safe to do so
- Ensuring medicines are transferred with the patient when they move ward
- Asking if relatives can bring patient’s medicines into hospital if they arrive without them
Campaign Messages

1. Check Before You Order
2. Only Order What You Need
3. Check Your Prescriptions Bag
4. Bring Your Medicines into Hospital and Remember to Take Them Home
5. Talk to the Pharmacy Team in your Local Pharmacy or GP Practice
6. Remember that Unused Medicines are a Safety Risk and Cannot be Recycled

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Get Involved
- Contact the Medicines Waste Team

Do you have any questions or stories/suggestions on how you might have helped support the campaign by improving patient safety and reducing medicines waste?

Please let us know by contacting: fife-uhb.fifemedicineswaste@nhs.net.