Appendix 4 – Delayed Prescriptions for Antibiotics

Delayed prescription is recommended in international guidance, and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence currently recommends using a strategy of either no antibiotic prescriptions or a delayed antibiotic prescription for dealing with uncomplicated acute sore throats and other respiratory infections.

A delayed prescription service may be delivered by either issuing the prescription to the patient with advice on when to use it or post-dating it, or by leaving the prescription at the practice reception with instructions to the patient on when it is necessary to return for it. If clear advice is given to patients, there is probably little to choose between the different strategies of delayed prescription. In most studies, 40-60% of prescriptions were not collected for use by the patient.

If any further information or resources for use with patient please contact your Medicines Management team.