



Langport Surgery

Modern Medicine with traditional values provided by a professional, caring team



NON DISPENSING PATIENTS

North Street Langport Somerset TA10 9RH

Tel: 01458 250464

www.langportsurgery.co.uk



What is a Non-Dispensing Patient?

As a dispensing practice we are not allowed to dispense medication to patients living within 1 mile of a chemist (as the crow flies), or to patients living in a non controlled locality as determined by NHS England.

Controlled localities are those that have been determined to be 'rural in character'. No definition of rural is given in the regulations however a rural area is normally characterized by a limited range of local services. A range of factors (as they pertain at the time of the determination) will therefore be considered when determining whether or not an area is rural. These include, but are not limited to:

- environmental factors such as the balance between different types of land use
- employment patterns (bearing in mind that those who live in rural areas may not work there)
- the size of the community and distance between settlements
- the overall population density
- transportation – the availability or otherwise of public transport and the frequency of such provision including access to services such as shopping facilities
- the provision of other facilities, such as recreational and entertainment facilities.

This means that although you may be registered with the practice and collect printed prescriptions from our dispensary, we are not allowed to dispense your medication if you are a non dispensing patient or living in a non controlled locality.

Are there any exceptions to the rules?

Non-dispensing patients should not be receiving medicines from the practice dispensary – the only exception would be medicine given as part of 'immediate treatment' under clause 14.11.1 of the General Medical Services (GMS) contract

What does this mean?

It means that:

- it must be essential that treatment is started as soon as possible
- it must be very difficult for the patient to obtain the drugs from elsewhere - i.e. a chemist - today
- only the quantity needed for immediate treatment should be provided (i.e. just today's dose, if it would be possible for the patient to take a prescription to a chemist for dispensing tomorrow)

If any of the above conditions are not met (so it is therefore a non-urgent item, or it is possible for the patient to get to a late-night pharmacy, or a week's supply is being requested then the dispensary cannot dispense to a non-dispensing patient.

Where can I go to collect my prescription?

If you are unsure where your nearest chemist is, please visit <http://www.nhs.uk/Service-Search/Pharmacy/LocationSearch/10> and enter your post code. It will give you a list of your nearest chemists, the distance from your postcode and their opening hours.

We hope this patient leaflet helps to explain why we are not able to dispense to non dispensing patients. Please ask our dispensary team if you require any further information.

