

**OPEN
THE
BAG!**

Every year in west Suffolk, approximately **£1.3m** is wasted on unused prescription medicine

- **£390k** worth is left unused in people's homes
- **£481k** worth is returned unused to pharmacies
- **£221k** worth is thrown away unused by care homes
- **£212k** worth is wasted in other ways, including the cost of safe disposal

Once an unwanted medicine has left the pharmacy, it cannot be used even if it's not been opened. By reducing the amount of medicines being wasted each year, we could increase the available funding for other health services.

OPEN THE BAG. If you don't need the medicine hand it back to the pharmacist or delivery driver which means it can be used safely by someone else.



**OPEN
THE
BAG!**

**STOP
THE
WASTE**

- When you take medicine away from a pharmacy it has to be paid for by the NHS out of taxes. If the medicine is not used, this is wasted money.
- Open the bag. If you don't need the medicine hand it back to the pharmacist or delivery driver.
- If you can't take a medicine tell your GP, pharmacist or nurse.
- Once a medicine has left the pharmacy, if it's not used it has to be destroyed, even if it's not been opened.
- In west Suffolk approx £1.3 million is wasted on unused medicines every year.
- If you need over the counter medicines, like paracetamol or aspirin, you can buy them from your pharmacy or supermarket for as little as 23p a box. Please don't ask for them on prescription - help us save precious time and NHS costs.
- If you work in a care home please take the time to check that your patients need all the medicines prescribed to them.

OPEN THE BAG. If you don't need the medicine hand it back to the pharmacist or delivery driver which means it can be used safely by someone else.

For more information visit: westsuffolkccg.nhs.uk