NHS
Great Yarmouth and Waveney
Clinical Commissioning Group

HealthEast

Every year in Great Yarmouth and Waveney, approximately **£1.06m** is wasted.

Of the £1.06m worth of unused medicines we estimate that:

- **£384k** is being returned to pharmacies because it's not needed
- **£320k** is kept in the home and is out of date
- **£170k** is disposed of in care homes

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 desperately needed health services.

Please open the bag - if you don't need all the medicine please hand it back at the counter or to the delivery driver.

For more information visit
www.greatyarmouthandwaveney.nhs.uk

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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 your taxes, **if the medicine is not used, this is wasted money.**
- **Please open the bag - if you don't need all the medicine please hand it back** at the counter or to the delivery driver.
- **If you can't take a medicine tell your GP, pharmacist or nurse.**
- **Take medicines if you can, tell us if you can't.**
- Once a medicine has left the pharmacy, **it has to be destroyed, even if it's not been opened.**
- In the Great Yarmouth and Waveney area approximately **£1.06m is wasted on unused medicines every year.**
- **If you need over the counter medicines,** like paracetamol, aspirin or iboprufen 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.**