**Painkillers at Firrhill Medical Centre**

We are pleased that you are considering registering with our practice. Please read the following information about our practice policy regarding strong painkillers eg **morphine, MST, oxycodone, tramadol, co-codamol 30/500, dihydrocodeine, gabapentin pregabalin**.

Strong painkillers are very useful after an operation, for acute severe injuries, or for treatment of cancer and end of life pain. However there is no evidence that they help patients who have ongoing long term conditions such as chronic pancreatitis, fibromyalgia, chronic back pain or sciatica.

Unfortunately these drugs have many side effects such as reducing gut function and impairing brain function and they are also addictive. Your body quickly gets used to the feel of having these drugs on board and it can be difficult to come off them.

If you are taking any of these medications long term ie for longer than 3 months, we will invite you to a review with our doctor or pharmacist and will help you to **slowly reduce and stop the drugs**. We will not provide an ongoing repeat prescription. Please do not request a repeat prescription as this is the policy for all of our doctors. We are very keen to encourage other methods of pain control such as graded strengthening and exercise. If you wish to register and have been receiving these medications from your previous practice, please ensure that you highlight this to our reception staff.