

Electronic Repeat Dispensing (eRD) benefits

The benefits of eRD for patients, GP practices and community pharmacy teams are many and include:

Patients	GP practices	Community pharmacies
 Patients don't need to contact their GP practice to regularly reorder prescriptions, unless their condition changes	 GPs have less need to sign repeat prescriptions, simplifying the process	 Improved stock control: eRD batch issues are downloaded seven days early, allowing preparation time
 Patients' time is saved in ordering medicines and patients don't need to remember to order their prescription so far in advance	 eRD allows the prescriber to issue a batch of repeatable prescriptions for up to 12 months with one digital signature	 Increased efficiency and more predictable workload
 Patients talk with their pharmacy team about future supplies and the pharmacy team help check circumstances haven't changed since the previous supply	 Pharmacy teams are required to ask patients if they require all items on their prescription before every issue, to avoid medicines wastage	 Reduced time spent collecting paper prescriptions from GP practices
 Patients are asked whether they require all the items on their prescription to avoid medicines being wasted	 eRD puts the prescriber in control and reduces the risk of unneeded items being reordered	 Pharmacy teams use their clinical skills to manage eRD prescriptions, which helps to enhance their relationship with patients and prescribers
 Patients can change their EPS nomination at any time during the duration of the eRD prescription	 The prescriber can cancel a single item or the whole prescription at any time	 No need to retain and store paper prescriptions
 Patients can request the next issue early or obtain more than one prescription where clinically appropriate, e.g. going on holiday	 There will be a reduction in the number of patient requests for repeat prescriptions or queries about them	 Electronic submission reduces the month-end submission workload
 Patients cannot lose their prescriptions	 It saves the prescriber time and allows prescription batches to coincide with dates where a clinical review is required	 Prescriptions are automatically cancelled when the Personal Demographics Service (PDS) is updated with notification of a death

Read more about eRD:

- cpe.org.uk/eRD