

Electronic Repeat Dispensing (eRD) FAQs:

What is it?

Your local practice thinks you or someone you care for uses the same medicines regularly, and you are able to benefit from electronic repeat prescriptions.

Your GP or prescriber will authorise a number of electronic repeat dispensing eRD prescriptions. This will be based on your circumstances and clinical need. These electronic repeat prescriptions will then be supplied to you by your pharmacy at regular intervals.

This means you won't have to re-order or collect your repeat prescriptions from your GP practice every time you need more medicine.

Why are we using it?

- To reduce the need for patients and carers to visit the local practice unnecessarily, supporting social distancing
- To reduce workload for prescribers, allowing better prioritisation of NHS resources
- To help improve the problems with some medicines currently being unavailable

How does it work?

Step 1

Collect your first electronic repeat dispensing (eRD) prescription from your nominated pharmacy. It will transfer in the same way as a normal electronic one – off prescription

Step 2

Next time you need more medicines, go back to your pharmacy.

Before dispensing the next issue of your prescription, your pharmacy will ask you the following questions:

- Have you seen any health professionals (GP, nurse or hospital doctor), since your last repeat prescription was supplied?
- Have you recently started taking any new medicines - either on prescription or that you have bought over the counter?
- Have you been having any problems with your medication or experiencing any side effects?
- Are there any items on your repeat prescription that you don't need this month?

If you don't need all of the medicines on your prescription, let the pharmacy staff know, so that they only supply the medicines you need. This will help to reduce waste and save the NHS money.

Step 3

When your pharmacy supplies your final repeat prescription, they will advise you to contact your local practice to arrange for your medication to be reviewed and if it is clinically appropriate to issue another eRD prescription.

Your prescriber **may** want you to make an appointment to see them before they will authorise more eRD prescriptions.

If you have concerns about using this process

Please contact your local practice to discuss whether to continue using this system.