

# Explaining electronic repeat dispensing to patients

Your medication has been changed to electronic repeat dispensing. This means a batch of repeat prescriptions has been sent electronically to your nominated pharmacy for the next 6 or 12 months. You no longer need to order your regular repeat medication as your pharmacy will already have these prescriptions.

## eRD means:

- Regular medicines can be prescribed for up to a year
- Prescriptions are stored securely on the NHS database, so they're ready at the pharmacy each time you need them
- No need to visit or call the GP every time you need to order a repeat prescription – you can go direct to the pharmacy
- You can order or cancel your repeat prescriptions online (if your GP offers this service)
- You don't need to call or visit your practice to order your repeat prescription

## How eRD can benefit you

If you get regular or repeat medicines, you might be suitable for eRD. Using eRD, you can:

- save time by avoiding unnecessary trips or calls to your GP every time you need to order a repeat prescription
- order or cancel your repeat prescriptions online (if your GP practice offers this service)
- pick up your repeat prescriptions directly from your pharmacy without having to visit your GP
- spend less time waiting for your prescription in the pharmacy or GP practice, which means you can stay at home and avoid face-to-face contact when you need your repeat prescription during the coronavirus pandemic
- save paper – you won't need a paper prescription to collect your medicine from the pharmacy

## **Step 1**

Your GP or prescriber will authorise a number of electronic repeat 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.

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## **Step 2**

Collect your first electronic repeat prescription from your pharmacy.

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## **Step 3**

When you need more medicines, go back to your pharmacy. Before dispensing the next issue of your prescription, your pharmacy will ask:

- 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.

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## **Step 4**

When your pharmacy supplies your final electronic repeat prescription in the series that your GP has authorised, they will advise you to contact your GP practice. Your doctor or practice nurse may want to see you to review your medication before they will authorise more electronic repeat prescriptions.