Electronic repeat dispensing (eRD) Summary.

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Electronic Repeat Dispensing (eRD), otherwise known as Batch prescriptions, is a process that allows the prescriber to authorise and issue a batch of repeat prescriptions for a clinically appropriate period up to 12 months with just one digital signature.

From April 2019, eRD became a contractual obligation for all patients where it is clinically appropriate and the patient consents.

Despite recommendations from the national team to increase Electronic Repeat Dispensing (eRD) to free up capacity in GP practices, the amount of usage in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough ICB is very low compared with the average across England.

# Batch prescriptions not only have benefits for the surgery but has also many benefits for the patients.



**Total time saved by switching 80% of repeat prescriptions to eRD**

**1110 hrs per year per practice**

**Therefore, even if you were to switch 1-3% of repeats. It would save the surgery**

**15-45 minutes per week**



Where eRD has been championed for repeat prescribing, practices have successfully achieved over 70% of patients receiving their medications in this way. Reducing the time spent on patient prescriptions queries and approving prescriptions significantly.

# Suggestions to aid implementation of eRD:

Targeted

One or more stable medications on repeat

EMIS or SystmOne search

Patient highlighted via NHSBSA report \*\*

At Medication review

During a GP’s appointment

When issuing a repeat

Opportunistic

**START SMALL Patients with 1-3 regular medication(s) on repeat**

At the request of the patient

Identify the patient at surgery

Patient identified by Community Pharmacy

**\*\*Requesting eRD data – NHS**

<https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/prescribing-and-dispensing/electronic-repeat-dispensing-erd/requesting-erd-data>

# Exclusion Criteria

These medications would not be recommended as suitable for a batch prescription.

* Controlled Drugs (including Temazepam and Tramadol)
* Benzodiazepines.
* Hypnotics.
* Drugs which require close and careful monitoring e.g., methotrexate.
* Unlicensed medicines

However, this does not stop the patient having other relevant medication on batch prescription. It would just mean these items would be excluded and they would have to order them in the usual way.

Monitored dosage systems (MDS) : Generally, patients receiving medication by MDS can have less stable medication regimes than other patients and therefore may not be suitable for eRD.

Multiple changes could result in multiple different prescriptions arriving at the pharmacy increasing the risk of error.

# Once suitable patients have been identified for eRD.

1. **Contact suitable patients.**

* Once suitable patients have been identified for eRD, you can use the resources available: <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/prescribing-and-dispensing/electronic/electronic-repeat-dispensing-erd>
* Provide information about eRD to the patient, including, what eRD is, Benefits of eRD and how it works.

1. **Ask the patient to consent to eRD.**

* Patients must give their explicit permission for information about their medications to be shared between their GP surgery and a nominated pharmacy.
* Consent can be given in writing or verbally.
* The process needs to be auditable. Once given, consent can therefore be recorded in the patient’s notes or as part of a new patient registration process.

1. **Ask the patient to nominate a pharmacy.**

* After the patient has given their consent, ask them to nominate a community pharmacy of their choice. This will be the pharmacy the patient will collect their medicines from.

# Setting up the eRD medication repeat.

* **Ensure that medication quantities and duration of each issue are aligned** before issuing prescriptions as eRD, this is particularly important where clinical systems default to a different original pack size e.g., nicorandil.
* Controlled Drugs - **Schedule 2 and 3 controlled drugs cannot be prescribed on an eRD prescription**, but Schedule 4 and 5 controlled drugs can.
* **Consider setting up batches to fall in line with medication reviews such as medication specific blood tests etc (drugs requiring 6 monthly bloods – Batch of 6 prescriptions should be done)**
* Ensure that patients with multiple co-morbidities have their **disease reviews and monitoring aligned** to as few appointments as possible.
* Set patient recalls for reviews or monitoring to be one month prior to the end of the electronic repeat dispensing batch.
* Ensure that any reviews or monitoring that will be required at the end of a batch are clearly visible in the patient record for administration staff.
* When required medication can be included in eRD. However, this would need to be put onto a separate batch.

Information/Screen shots on how to set up and cancel prescriptions – See [Appendix 1](#_Appendix)

# At the end of the batch...

When a patient collects their final eRD prescription from their existing batch (for example issue 13 of

13).

The Pharmacy should:

* Tell the patient they have no more prescriptions remaining.
* Ask the patient to contact their GP practice.
* The patient will need to visit their GP for a medication review before the next full batch of eRD
* prescriptions can be issued.

# Tips to stop eRD patients dropping off the list.

To maintain patients on electronic Repeat Dispensing and to maximise time efficiencies, the following strategies could be employed:

* ARDENS have ready-made searches that can be run to identify patients that previously have had eRD but have now dropped off.
  + **Reporting - ARDENS ltd – Prescribing – Repeats /Repeat dispensing.**
* Ensure that patients with multiple co-morbidities have their disease reviews and monitoring aligned to as few appointments as possible.
* Set patient recalls for reviews or monitoring to be one month prior to the end of the electronic Repeat Dispensing batch,
* Incorporate electronic Repeat Dispensing issue into medication reviews.
* Ensure that any reviews or monitoring that will be required at the end of a batch are clearly visible in the patient record.
* Consider if monitoring could be done outside the surgery.
* Read codes for eRD: On Repeat Dispensing System
* Emis web: **8BM1**
* SystmOne: **XaJus**
* Snomed: **414938004**

# Cancelling eRD items

There are 2 methods that can be used for to Cancelling and re-issuing items on eRD:

* Cancel ALL outstanding items on the Spine and replace with a new batch of all items including the new item.
* Cancel the individual item(s) – check when the next issue of the existing eRD batch is due and generate a one-off prescription to cover until the date of the next issue.

“Syncing” prescriptions in this way aims to ensure that all the patient’s prescriptions are received by the dispenser on the same day to ensure patients receive all their medication at the same time and to support interaction checking.

Always inform the nominated pharmacy of any changes made to a patients eRD prescriptions.

# **Appendix 1**

## eRD prescription set up and cancelling



## Information and Training

* Requesting eRD data – NHS

<https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/prescribing-and-dispensing/electronic-repeat-dispensing-erd/requesting-erd-data>

* Electronic repeat dispensing - NHS

<https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/prescribing-and-dispensing/electronic/electronic-repeat-dispensing-erd>

* Electronic Repeat Dispensing Conversation Crib Sheet

<https://wessexahsn.org.uk/img/publications/eRD%20Conversation%20Crib%20Sheet%20(NEHF%20CCG)_2020_02_04_02_45_14.pdf>

* NHS England electronic repeat dispensing guidance:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/documents/electronic-repeat-dispensing/>

* Information on electronic repeat dispensing for pharmacists (PSNC):

<http://psnc.org.uk/services-commissioning/essential-services/repeat-dispensing/>

* Video on electronic repeat dispensing :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zzaNeAaelAo>

* Patient facing leaflet:

<https://www.memorialmedicalcentre.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/520/2018/06/ERD-Patient-Leaflet.pdf>

* A standard operating procedure for repeat dispensing has been produced by the National Pharmacy Association (NPA) and is available from (login required):

<https://www.npa.co.uk/login/?r=information-and-guidance/repeat-dispensing-services-sop>

* The Centre for Postgraduate Pharmacy Education (CPPE) open learning pack on repeat dispensing:

<https://www.cppe.ac.uk/programmes/l/repeat-e-01/>

* Video of a GP describing electronic repeat dispensing available from:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_IR0OYEDRG4>

* Wessex AHSN eRD Toolkit:

<https://wessexahsn.org.uk/projects/120/electronic-repeat-dispensing-erd>

## Information for prescribers

**NHS digital:**

Information to support the identification of patients suitable for eRD and links to system supplier resources to help you to set up a patient on eRD.

* eRD prescriber guide:

<https://nhs-prod.global.ssl.fastly.net/binaries/content/assets/legacy/pdf/prescriber_guide.pdf>

* eRD prescriber quick guide:

<https://nhs-prod.global.ssl.fastly.net/binaries/content/assets/legacy/pdf/prescriber_quick_guide.pdf>

* eRD presentation:

<https://nhs-prod.global.ssl.fastly.net/binaries/content/assets/legacy/powerpoint/erd_toolkit_presentation.pptx>

* Explaining eRD to patients:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/services/electronic-prescription-service/explaining-electronic-repeat-dispensing-to-patients>