

# electronic Repeat Dispensing

## Patient consent guide

EPS Phase 4 allows prescriptions for all patients to be sent using the more efficient system, not only for those who had chosen a regular “nominated” dispenser”.

Having a nominated pharmacy helps to improve the patient experience and provides continuity of care.

This can be done in the pharmacy or GP practice, and can be changed if necessary.

To nominate a pharmacy, patients must first give explicit permission for information about their medications to be shared between their GP surgery and the community pharmacy of their choice.

Consent can be given in writing or verbally. But 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.

**Patients must be fully informed about eRD before a nomination can be set on the system. It’s important that patients understand that:**

- eRD is an alternative way to receive medicines that have been prescribed
- eRD sends your prescriptions electronically from your GP surgery to a pharmacy of your choice
- you can change your nominated pharmacy at any time. Ask your GP or pharmacist to do this for you
- you don’t need a computer or electronic device to use eRD. Your GP or pharmacy will set it up for you
- eRD allows your GP to prescribe your regular medicines for up to a year. Your regular prescriptions are stored securely on the NHS database, so they’ll be ready at the pharmacy each time you need them
- you don’t need to visit your GP every time you need to order a repeat prescription. And you will no longer need a paper prescription
- form to pick up your medication from the pharmacy
- when you pick up your medication, your pharmacist will ask you a number of questions and carry out checks to ensure patient safety
- you need to give your consent for the GP and the pharmacy to exchange information about your treatment. This information is shared and stored securely and confidentially on the NHS database
- your GP will carry out regular reviews of your medication with you
- eRD does not affect your entitlement to free prescriptions, or your need to pay. You will still need to pay for your prescriptions, or declare your exemption as normal.

**For more information, contact:**  
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