

Electronic Repeat Dispensing

As part of the contingency planning for the Covid-19 pandemic, NHS England have recommended that appropriate patients receive their regular prescriptions via the **NHS Electronic Repeat Dispensing (eRD)** service. This means that you won't have to re-order or collect your repeat prescription from your GP practice every time you need more medicine. The following four steps explain how it works.

Step 1

If your prescriber thinks that you could use eRD for your regular medicines, they will ask you for permission to share information about your treatment with your Pharmacist. This will help your Pharmacist to give your prescriber feedback about your treatment and provide you with useful advice.

Your GP or prescriber will then authorise a number of eRD prescriptions. This will be based on your circumstances and clinical need. These eRD prescriptions will then be supplied to you by your pharmacy at regular intervals. You can choose any pharmacy that dispenses NHS prescriptions but you should let your prescriber know which one you would like to go to so that they can send the prescription there electronically.

Step 2

Collect your first eRD prescription from your pharmacy.

Step 3

When 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 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.

If you have any questions about your medicines, just ask at the pharmacy; they'll be happy to help you.

Step 4

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