

## Electronic Repeat Dispensing (eRD)

As part of the Primary Care response to COVID - 19, NHS England have stated ([Click for ref.](#)):

"General practices have been asked to consider putting all suitable patients on electronic repeat dispensing as their next repeat prescriptions are issued"

**Increasing eRD will have the following benefits\* in the current situation:**

- ✓ Reducing footfall to the GP practice and to the community pharmacy, supporting social distancing.
- ✓ Reducing workload [*in the longer term*] for prescribers allowing better prioritisation of resources
- ✓ Controlled management of the supply chain reducing the number of temporarily unavailable medicines.

\* eRD is only available to non-dispensing patients

**Electronic Repeat Dispensing** is essentially the release of a 'batch' of up to 12 months' worth of prescriptions to the pharmacy. This requires only one electronic signature from the GP/ Prescriber. [3 min you tube eRD video](#) [Link to NHSBSA The Pathway to eRD](#) [GP Practice eRD resources, letter templates etc](#)

**All relevant clinicians, pharmacists, repeat prescription staff and patients must have a thorough understanding of eRD.** This is to avoid the process failing if a patient's medication changes during the cycle and to ensure it is set up correctly again following medication review / reauthorisation.

**Patients must give their explicit permission\*\*** for information about their medications to be shared between their GP surgery and a nominated pharmacy. **This can be verbal.** Document via read code: "Patient consent given for Repeat Dispensing information transfer" XaKRX, 9Nd3, SNOMED 416224003

*\*\*National discussions are ongoing to simplify the consent process but at the time of writing the above is required.*

### Patients who *may* be suitable for eRD

(See overleaf for clinical system searches to identify recommended patient groups to start with):

**Patients who already have a Community Pharmacy ETP nomination and:**

- **have** a stable condition(s). *Avoid patients with complex medication regimens.*
- have **not** had any unplanned hospital admissions in the last 6 months
- Have **not** had / nor likely to have any changes to their medicines in the previous/next 6 months
- Do **not** take any controlled drugs, benzodiazepines, hypnotics, medicines requiring frequent review e.g. lithium, methotrexate, unlicensed medicines.

**Norfolk & Waveney ICB Medicines Optimisation Teams advise the following, if you wish to implement eRD.**

### 1. Practices and associated Pharmacies *already familiar with and utilising eRD*

- Follow local advice regarding suitable patients and utilise the resources overleaf,
- ICB Medicines Optimisation Team Pharmacists and Technicians may be able to support practices *where capacity allows*. **To request support:** [nwicb.medsqueries@nhs.net](mailto:nwicb.medsqueries@nhs.net)

## 2. Practices and associated Pharmacies **NOT yet using eRD**

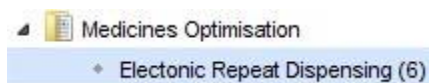
- Contact your Medicines Optimisation Team contact to request advice / support **ONLY if you feel you have the resources / capacity to spend some time setting eRD up.**

### Suggested groups of patients to start with – based on current COVID-19 situation.

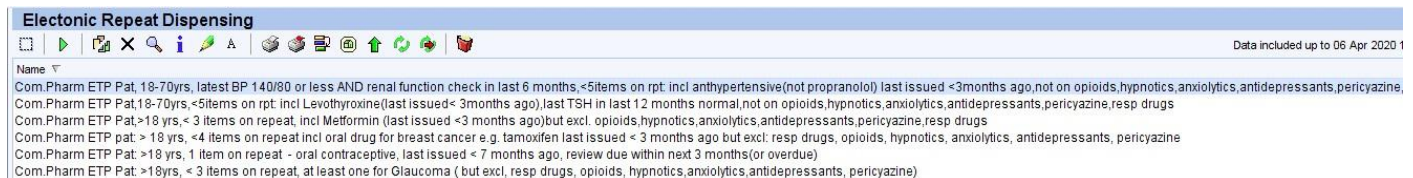
- **Stable patients > 18 years old with less than 4 - 5 items on repeat**
- **Excluding** opioids, hypnotics, anxiolytics, antidepressants, respiratory medication, drugs subject to current national shortage [click link for latest available information](#)
- **Exclude:** care home patients, patients **not** on stable regimens, patients who may not understand the eRD process /do not have support to help them, patients with complex needs.
- **Examples of potential patient groups:** levothyroxine only, eye drops for glaucoma only, oral contraceptives only, metformin alone for hyperglycaemia, oral breast cancer drugs only (*with clear treatment end date*), common antihypertensives.

**System1 searches** are available to identify the least complicated patients, who may be suitable. Please note: *more searches may be added. The searches may be amended following any feedback.*

### System1 > Reporting > Clinical Reporting > Norfolk & Waveney > Medicines Optimisation > Electronic Repeat Dispensing



For similar Emis Web searches please email [agem.medicines.norfolk@nhs.net](mailto:agem.medicines.norfolk@nhs.net)



The patient record should **be checked by an appropriate clinician** before any change to eRD is made. *The search list will still include patients for whom eRD is not suitable*

**Verbal consent from the patient must be obtained and an explanation of the process given.** “Patient consent given for Repeat Dispensing information transfer” XaKRX, 9Nd3, SNOMED 416224003  
“On Repeat Dispensing System” XaJus, 8BM1, SNOMED 414938004

### NHS BSA – support for identifying patients -although lists will still include patients who are **not suitable**

- GP practices can obtain NHS numbers of patients who **may** be suitable
- Some practices will already have been sent this list from NHS BSA
- If you have not received a list but would like one email [nhsbsa.epssupport@nhs.net](mailto:nhsbsa.epssupport@nhs.net)

The list includes patients:	Excludes
With a <b>single</b> unchanged medicine for last 12 months	Patients age 18 years or under
With <b>two</b> unchanged medicines for last 12 months	Appliances
With <b>three</b> unchanged medicines for last 12 months	Personally Admin. Drugs & Medicines (PADM)
Who had their prescriptions sent via EPS	Dispensing Doctors
	Controlled Drugs
	FP10 MDA

**Additional useful resources – *click links to access***

- **Academic Health Science Network:** [Wessex AHSN Electronic Repeat Dispensing Handbook 2018](#)
- **NHSBSA Resources:** <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliancecontractors/prescribing-and-dispensing/electronic/erd-resources>
- **NHS Digital prescriber system specific prescriber eRD eLearning:** <https://learning.necsu.nhs.uk/nhs-digitalelectronic-repeat-dispensing-elearning/>
- **Rotherham CCG system1 A4 flow chart:** [Setting up electronic repeat dispensing on System1](#)
- **Rotherham CCG Emis Web A4 flow chart** [Setting up electronic repeat dispensing Emis Web](#) • **Emis Web clincial system instructions for repeat dispensing:** <https://www.emisnow.com/csm?>

**Version Control** (To be completed by policy owner)

Version	Date	Author	Status	Comment
2.0	Dec 2023	Updated by Jen Carroll, TAG Lead Technician	Final	Format and accessibility checks in preparation for transfer to Knowledge NoW website. Content not reviewed. Review date amended to Dec 2024