

Repeat prescribing/repeat dispensingDo you know the difference??

Repeat Prescribing:-

Repeat prescriptions represent approximately 60-75% of all prescriptions written by GPs and approximately 80% of primary care prescribing costs.

The National Prescribing Centre describes **repeat prescribing** as“a partnership between the patient and prescriber that allows the prescriber to authorise a prescription so it can be repeatedly issued at agreed intervals, without the patient having to consult the prescriber at each issue.”

Repeat prescribing requires the patient to **contact their GP practice every time** they need a new repeat prescription and then the patient either collects the prescription or requests that it is sent via EPS (Electronic Prescription Service) to the Community Pharmacy of their choice to be dispensed.

Repeat prescribing is a fundamental process within the NHS which plays a significant part in the provision of medicines to patients in primary care.

It can be a complex system as there are many separate processes going on at the same time; however an efficient robust system offers many benefits to patients, carers, practices and the NHS as a whole.

Repeat Dispensing:-

Repeat dispensing is a way of dispensing regular medicines to suitable patients on stable long-term treatment, according to an agreed protocol, **without the direct involvement of the GP surgery, on each occasion a repeat medicine is required.**

Repeat dispensing prescriptions are issued as batches of 6 or 13 prescriptions which can be sent via EPS or taken to the Community Pharmacy of choice for safe storage.

Although the patient does not regularly see a doctor, there is an opportunity for a pharmacist to intervene and counsel the patient if issues arise. When the patient presents to obtain their last batch instalment of medication they should be instructed to arrange a routine medication review with their GP.

The repeat supplies are managed by the patient's pharmacy of choice and issued in instalments to suitable patients over a defined period of time.

As this is an Essential Service all Community Pharmacies with a NHS contract are obliged to offer and provide it. They are paid for this service under the Community Pharmacy contractual framework.



Any patient with a long term condition that is considered likely to remain stable for the duration of the repeat dispensing could be suitable for the service.

The service **is not suitable** for all patients, especially those prescribed schedule 2 and 3 controlled drugs or patients with acute, newly diagnosed or unstable conditions.

Originally this service was mainly carried out using paper prescriptions, but as EPS has developed, the majority of repeat dispensing is now carried out via EPS release 2 and is termed electronic Repeat Dispensing (eRD). **If all Clinicians are trained appropriately and patients are selected and initiated correctly eRD is much more efficient and convenient for all involved.**

To contact the Medicines Optimisation Team please phone 01772 214302