

# Electronic Repeat Dispensing (eRD)



## What we do

Support patients, more GP practices and community pharmacists to manage batch repeat dispensing



## Why are we doing it?

To reduce workload and increase capacity for prescribers offering batch prescribing for patients

**Electronic Repeat Dispensing (eRD) enables patients on long-term, stable prescriptions to receive their medication at a pharmacy of their choice for up to 12 months using the Electronic Prescription Service (EPS), without having to request repeat prescriptions.**

eRD offers a time saving of up to **46 minutes** a day for the GP practice. If **80%** of all repeat prescriptions were issued as repeat dispensing, **2.7 million GP hours** could be saved.

### Using electronic repeat dispensing:

- reduces footfall to the GP practice and to the community pharmacy, supporting workload and, during the pandemic, supporting social distancing
- reduces workload for prescribers allowing better prioritisation of resources
- controls management of the medicines supply chain, reducing the number of temporarily unavailable medicines.

### The programme:

- supports patients to get the most from their medicines
- reduces the risk of avoidable harm from medicines improves the experience of the medicines pathway.



This year, around **1.6 million** extra electronic repeat dispensing prescription items were issued across our region



Using eRD has saved more than **6,800 GP hours** in Wessex during 2021-22



**8.1%** of the region's patients received eRD by December 2021, an increase on the **4.6%** reported in April 2020

# Electronic Repeat Dispensing (eRD)



**3.2K**

views of the Meet Mo eRD  
video 2021-22



**83**

prescribing staff attended eRD  
training webinars



Our eRD delivery has been recognised as best practice by NHS England and NHS Improvement and the NHS Transformation Directorate



## What we delivered in 2021-22:

- Within Wessex, around **1.6 million** extra electronic repeat dispensing prescription items were issued, saving more than **6,800 GP hours** for the year 2021/22
- **4.6%** of our patients received eRD in April 2020; the latest available data showed that this increased to **8.1%** at December 2021
- Wessex has only **25 GP practices** that have not issued any eRD items. In Wessex **90% GP practices** have issued eRD items
- Continued to support the wider deployment of eRD across GP practices and community pharmacy in Wessex. This builds on work we have been doing over several years to increase the utilisation of eRD over several years
- Delivered five eRD webinar training events to over **80 Wessex GP practice staff** (clinical and non-clinical). These bespoke training sessions supported those new to eRD as well as those who wish to go 'from good to great'
- Worked closely with colleagues at the NHS Business Services Authority (BSA) to inform GPs about how many of their patients are taking regular medications, with data and useful dashboards developed to identify those patients best suited to move to eRD
- Recorded podcasts with a GP from Hampshire and a PCN Lead Pharmacist from Dorset to discuss the benefits of eRD for health professionals
- Piloted a scheme for the NHS BSA to notify practices of patients reaching the end of their prescription year. This information supports practices to organise a timely medication review and a new eRD batch prescription, to avoid patients dropping off the eRD scheme.



## Plans for 2022-23:

- Continue eRD support to improve efficiency in the process around repeat prescribing and release the efficiencies that exist with increased use of eRD for managing repeat medicines in primary care. It has been recognised as an important component of the NHS aims around reset and recovery following the pandemic
- Continue to promote eRD across Primary Care Networks, through training and awareness events to reduce the number of GP practices where there is zero use of eRD.