

## Electronic repeat dispensing

We wrote on 5 March 2020 encouraging GPs to consider transferring patients to eRD wherever possible. We know that many practices have increased their utilisation of eRD over the past few weeks, but there are further opportunities.

### **Temporary change to need for patient consent to enable increased use of eRD**

It has always been the case that patients need to individually consent to receiving their medication in this way. Now, using the powers granted by the [National Health Service \(Amendments Relating to the Provision of Primary Care Services During a Pandemic etc.\) Regulations 2020](#), we have agreed with the Secretary of State that in certain circumstances (defined below) this requirement can be temporarily suspended.

Practices in England may transfer any clinically suitable patient onto eRD if they are already receiving, or have agreed to receive, electronic prescriptions. This means:

- any patient who has previously had medication dispensed by means of the electronic prescription service (EPS); or
- any patient who has recorded a nominated pharmacy either via the practice, pharmacy or NHS App; or

Classification: Official

- any patient whose practice is live with EPS Phase 4.

The requirement for patient consent is suspended until **30 June 2020** at which time the suspension will either be extended or revoked. We will write to you again nearer to that date.