Electronic Repeat Dispensing (eRD) PRN Medication England – FAQ's

Repeat medication that your patients use on an 'as required' basis is often issued at the same time as medication used regularly. This can lead to the dispensing and stockpiling of unnecessary medication.

To help manage this problem prescribers can separate **As Needed** (often referred to as PRN medication) from other items when generating prescriptions, see Prescribing PRN Medication in the **Consultation Manager** Help Centre.

In England, this also applies to **Electronic Repeat Dispensing** (**eRD**) PRN medication.

How does Electronic Repeat Dispensing (eRD) work?

Electronic Repeat Dispensing (**eRD**) allows a prescriber to authorise and issue a batch of repeatable prescriptions, including PRN or 'As Needed' medication, for up to 12 months with just one digital signature. The **Repeat Authorisation** (**RA**) and **Repeat Dispensing** (**RD**) batch prescription issues are stored securely on the **NHS Spine** and automatically download to the patient's nominated community pharmacy at intervals set by the prescriber. The prescriber sets the specified intervals based on the patient's usage history. If the patient runs out of their medication, the dispenser can download the next issue in advance.

For information on how **Electronic Repeat Dispensing** works in **Vision 3** and how to **Add a Repeat Dispensing Prescription**, see Repeat Dispensing in the **Consultation Manager** Help Centre.

Training Tip

- A good time to set up **Electronic Repeat Dispensing** is whilst doing a medication review particularly if a patient's medication has not changed in the previous 12 months.
- Key targets for **Electronic Repeat Dispensing** are patients who are ordering their prescriptions online but do not have a nomination.
- Patients must consent to **Electronic Repeat Dispensing**.

How does Electronic Repeat Dispensing work with PRN Medication?

Electronic Repeat Dispensing items with the same repeat/interval combination are generated together on a prescription. Items with different repeat/intervals are grouped on separate prescriptions, generating tokens with different bar codes.

You can select to print PRN items with the same repeat and interval separately from other PRN items.

The following flow chart explains how **Electronic Repeat Dispensing** works when sending PRN medication:

Repeat Dispensing prescription created (RD), authorised (RA), finalised and sent

Select the option to separate out PRNs

No →

What happens?
All batches with a similar repeat and interval combination are grouped together in a single prescription.
Batches with different repeat and interval combinations are grouped together in separate prescriptions.

Yes ↓

Select one PRN per prescription

No →

What happens?
You have the potential of up to four prescriptions being produced depending on the combination of Dosage, number of repeats and PRN options:
1 - All PRN items with the same repeat interval combination
2 - Remaining PRN medication on a separate prescription
3 - All non-PRN medication with the same repeat and interval combination
4 - Remaining non-PRN items are grouped on separate prescriptions

Yes ↓

What happens?
Depending on the combination of Dosage, number of repeats and PRN options selected the following prescriptions may be created:
- All PRN items on separate prescriptions
- All non-PRN items with the same repeat and interval combination are grouped on one prescription
The remaining non-PRN items are grouped on separate prescriptions