

Controlled Drugs in EPS – EMIS Web national roll out

Prescribing tip for information only

The national roll out of prescribing of controlled drugs via EPS (electronic prescription services) for practices using **EMIS Web** will take place between **25 March and 8 April**. It will take two weeks to complete and will include all practices in England using the EMIS Web prescribing system. The roll out will be phased, and several GP practices will have the functionality enabled on each day during the roll out. The [EMIS Web roll-out schedule](#), listed by individual GP practice, is available to download from the NHS Digital website.

Practices do not need to manually enable the feature and, once enabled, EPS will automatically be used for all eligible CD and non-CD prescriptions.

It is important that **all GP practices in England that use EMIS Web** know when the functionality will be switched on in their practice and understand what the changes mean for them and their teams including locum staff. Further information for GP practices can be found here [Read about how the change affects GP practices](#)

Best practice when prescribing CD's

Prescribers are reminded that face-to-face consultations are considered best practice when prescribing controlled drugs. Although the introduction of EPS may result in opportunities for remote consulting and prescribing, particularly in urgent and emergency care, this should be a last resort for controlled drugs, particularly without access to the primary care record or personal knowledge of the patient.

Exclusions to EPS prescribing

Oral liquid methadone: Because it isn't possible for all dispensing systems to endorse electronic prescriptions for oral liquid methadone with a packaged dose endorsement (PDn), a paper FP10 prescription will still need to be generated for this drug to allow the pharmacy to claim the correct fees.

Instalment prescribing: EPS cannot be used for prescribing in instalments (FP10MDA prescribing).

EPS nominations

Patients who already have a nomination should be advised that most of their items, including Schedule 2 or 3 CDs, can now be sent via EPS to their nominated pharmacy like their other medication. These patients will not receive a separate paper prescription for Schedule 2 or 3 CDs anymore, except for oral liquid methadone or instalment FP10MDA prescriptions (see exclusions above). Patients who previously did not have a nomination because they received Schedule 2 or 3 CDs and did not want split prescriptions can be advised to consider setting a nomination.

Practices should consider informing your local and frequently used community pharmacies about your controlled drugs go live date. This will help ensure they are prepared for the change. [Download an email/letter template](#)