The electronic Repeat Dispensing (eRD) cycle

eRD allows the prescriber to authorise and issue repeat prescriptions electronically. eRD prescription issues include the usual information on electronic prescription service (EPS) prescriptions and additionally, the interval between each issue (e.g. 28 days) and how many times the repeatable prescription can be issued (e.g. 13 times). The steps in the eRD cycle are described below, with some optional steps near the beginning that help eRD work optimally for all involved.

eRD step	Explanation of the eRD step
Patient selected	**The GP practice team confirms the switch to eRD.** The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) can support this process by providing a list of potential candidates to practice.
Optional step: The patient's existing medicines considered	**The patient identifies the quantity of medicines they currently hold** to enable the generation of a 'synchronising prescription'.
Optional step: Synchronising prescription generated	Where necessary, the **prescriber issues a synchronising prescription** to the patient to align the duration of treatment for all medicines so they will all run out simultaneously.
Optional: Synching script dispensed	**The pharmacy dispenses the synchronising prescription.**
eRD prescription issued	**The prescriber selects the number of repeat batches and interval period,** e.g. 13 batches, each with a 28-day interval to cover a total of 364 days. eRD is used to prescribe and send the item to the NHS Spine.
Prescriber may print a token, but it isn't required to do so	**The prescriber may print a Repeatable Prescription Authorising Token** (a paper token representation of the eRD batch issues). Some patients like to receive a token because it lists the prescription items they can obtain directly from their pharmacy.
eRD prescription moves from Spine to pharmacy	**NHS Spine sends the eRD prescription to the patient's nominated pharmacy.** It may also be 'pulled' by the pharmacy if the pharmacy has the prescription token reference. The pharmacy downloads the first issue like other EPS scripts.
Subsequent batch issues	**Subsequent issues are timed to arrive after the previous batch issue but before the patient is due to visit the pharmacy for the next supply to allow time to prepare the prescription.** Subsequent issues within a batch of prescriptions can only be downloaded early if previous issues are completed.
Requesting a new set of repeats (potentially aligned with a review of the patient's regimen)	**A new repeatable prescription is requested after the last issue.** After all the issues have been dispensed, or if the eRD issues expire, the patient contacts their GP to request a further batch of issues. GP practices may align this with planned clinical reviews of patients. Pharmacy team members should advise patients to contact their GP practice when dispensing the last issue of a repeatable prescription.
Change of pharmacy mid-batch	**Ability to change nomination between issues**: A repeatable prescription is sent to a patient's nominated pharmacy. Patients can change their nominated pharmacy before the expiry of the repeatable prescription. Issues not already downloaded will then be transferred to the new pharmacy.
Cancellation or change of eRD prescriptions	**The prescriber can cancel unused batch issues at any time.** A set of prescriptions may occasionally be cancelled entirely and restarted if there is a change to the medicines. Alternatively, a newly prescribed medicine could have its prescription aligned to end at the time of an eRD batch issue, which is then included in the patient's next set of eRD prescriptions.

Read more about eRD: **cpe.org.uk/eRD**