

To: • Community Pharmacy sites

NHS England
Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
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21 February 2025

Dear Colleagues

RE: Full rollout of the Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) to Detained Estate services

NHS England is pleased to confirm that the pilot phase of EPS for patients in Detained Estate services has successfully concluded. EPS will now be rolled out to all places of detention in England through a phased approach, starting w/c 24 February 2025 in the West Midlands and South East. A table of the rollout plans can be found [here](#).

This rollout of EPS will significantly improve access to medicines for detainees upon release by:

- ✓ **Enabling advance prescribing** of discharge medicines as part of release planning, removing the need for a **paper FP10** to be physically retained and handed to the patient.
- ✓ **Streamlining prescribing processes**, supporting **remote prescribing** and reducing reliance on on-site prescribers to issue a paper FP10.
- ✓ **Replacing the need for in-prison dispensing**, reducing issues where discharge medicines are left behind or cannot be supplied before release.
- ✓ **Minimising uncollected medicines**, reducing the need for individuals to return to prison to collect discharge prescriptions.
- ✓ **Ensuring prescriptions can be digitally cancelled** if a detainee **returns to custody after a court appearance**, avoiding issues with paper FP10s.

Free-of-charge 0015 HMP code for these prescriptions

An HM prison-issued FP10 or FP10MDA prescription issued to a person released from prison is exempt from NHS prescription charges. **Patients do not need to complete a signed declaration on the prescription form.**

HMP prescriptions should have the exemption category 0015 HMP selected. All EPS systems suppliers have made this code selectable*

*On some dispensing systems this category is worded in a misleading way, for example 'patient does not have to pay a prescription charge'.

Patients do not need to complete a signed declaration on the prescription form.

The prescriber address section of the prescription will include the initials HMP / YOI (Young Offenders Institution)' to confirm that the prescription is exempt from charges, and the category code 0015 HMP, can be selected.

Healthcare have also been asked to communicate to patients about their electronic prescriptions and to inform them they are entitled to free prescriptions.

Dealing with these prescriptions

Community pharmacies will see a small overall increase in EPS prescriptions, with a notable rise in non-nominated prescriptions that need to be manually retrieved from the NHS Spine.

Key Information for Pharmacies:

- **Non-Nominated EPS Prescriptions:** Due to uncertainty around where an individual will reside post-release, the non-nomination option for prescriptions is the most effective and safest option for ensuring continuity of medicines and ease of access for recently released individuals.
- **Dispensing on Demand:** Medications should be dispensed while the individual waits (if in stock), as prescriptions cannot be prepared in advance.
- **Prescription Tokens:** Some patients may have a paper or digital token (via NHS App or NHS website), but many will not.
- **Manual Search:** Pharmacies must be prepared to locate prescriptions manually using patient details (e.g. name, DOB, last place of detention).
- **Exemption from Charges:** As explained above, prescriptions issued from a prison address are exempt from prescription charges.

If the pharmacist needs to contact the prison prescriber, they can do this by looking up the prison, contacting the main switchboard and asking to be put through to the healthcare team. These teams normally operate core hours between 08.00 and 17.00 Monday to Friday with some teams available outside these core hours.

Contact details

If you would like more information about the project or have any questions, please contact us at: necsu.hjis@nhs.net