



Ref PH566

To all Community Pharmacies in the Wessex area and copied to Partner organisations and other interested parties for information

Dear Community Pharmacist Colleague,

National roll out of Schedule 2 and 3 Controlled Drugs in EPS

The national roll out of controlled drugs (CDs) in EPS will start on Thursday 28 February for TPP SystemOne and Vision GP practices.

This means that the number of CD prescriptions you receive via EPS will increase significantly as more GP practices have the functionality switched on.

It is important that all staff working in your pharmacy, including locums, are aware of the roll out and prepared to dispense an electronic prescription for a controlled drug.

If you receive a prescription for a Schedule 2 or 3 CD via EPS, you should dispense it as you would any other electronic prescription. Processing Schedule 2 & 3 CDs electronically using EPS will make the process safer and more secure.

You may find it useful to check when the GP practices local to you are going live by checking the [roll out schedule](#)

As patients can nominate any EPS Release 2 enabled pharmacy in England, you could receive an electronic CD prescription at any time, even if there are no GP practices close to you currently live with CD functionality. GP practices taking part in the [EPS Phase 4 pilot](#) will prescribe CDs electronically both for patients with nominations and for those without (on Phase 4 tokens).

For more information and best practice guidance, visit the [NHS Digital website](#)

Kind regards

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