



Can I take my prescription to any pharmacy?

Yes, you can take your prescription to any pharmacy.

Can someone else collect my prescription?

Yes, you can get someone else to get your prescription for you.

Do I still have to sign the prescription?

Yes you do. Signing the form lets us know that you have received your medicines and have either paid a prescription charge/s or that you get free prescriptions and the reason why.

How to find out more?

For more information about anything in this leaflet contact:

- > your GP
- > your community pharmacist, or
- > the NHS Helpline on 0800 22 44 88 (calls are free).

Further copies of this document are available, on request, in audio and large print formats and in community languages, please contact: 0131 244 2529

وہ کی مزید کاپیاں آڈیو کیسٹ پر اور بڑے حروف کی چھاپائی میں اور کمیونٹی کی
میں طلب کیے جانے پر دستیاب ہیں۔ برائے سرکاری اس پتے پر رابطہ کریں: 0131 244 2529

अधिक प्रतियाँ इस दस्तावेज़ की ऑडियो और बड़े अक्षरों में तथा कम्युनिटी भाषाओं में मिल
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此文件有更多備份，如果需要，語音版本和大大體版
本及少數種族語言版本也可提供，請聯絡: 0131 244 2529

يمكن أن تطلب النسخ الأخرى من هذا المستند بالتسجيل الصوتي والخط العريض
ونسخ بلغات أخرى، يرجى الاتصال على: 0131 244 2529

Aby otrzymać niniejszy dokument w innej wersji językowej, na kasecie
lub w wersji z powiększonym drukiem, prosimy o kontakt: 0131 244 2529

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This document is also available on the Scottish Government website:
www.scotland.gov.uk

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Electronic Transfer of Prescriptions (ETP)





The move towards the electronic transfer of prescriptions

This leaflet tells you about changes to the way prescriptions are produced by your GP and dispensed by your community pharmacist.

Background

In Scotland around 200,000 paper prescriptions are written every working day. This totalled over 77 million prescription items in 2006. Each year this figure rises by about 4%.

The NHS wants to make this more efficient by cutting down on the number of paper prescription forms and, in the future, send them electronically instead.

This will free up time and resources that can be spent on patient care.

It's starting to happen now

- > The NHS in Scotland has started to introduce the electronic transfer of prescriptions (ETP).
- > ETP means that your prescription information is sent electronically from your GP practice to your community pharmacy.

Will my GP still give me a paper prescription?

- > Yes, for the immediate future you will still get a paper prescription from your GP to take to your community pharmacy, in the same way as you do now.
- > When you get that prescription, you will see that it has a bar code and some letters and numbers printed down the side. This is a unique reference code for both your paper and electronic prescriptions.
- > At the same time as your prescription is being printed in the surgery, an electronic version is sent to a secure electronic message store.

What information is contained in the electronic version of my prescription?

- > The electronic version contains exactly the same information that is printed on your paper prescription and nothing else. It holds:
 - > your name and address
 - > your date of birth
 - > your Community Health Index (CHI) number which is a unique NHS number that identifies you
 - > the name of any medicines being prescribed
 - > any instructions for using the medicines
 - > your GP's name and address, and
 - > the date the prescription was produced.
- > **No** other personal information is given about you.

What happens when I take my prescription to my pharmacy?

- > Your pharmacist will scan the bar code on the prescription using a special scanner.
- > This will show the electronic version of your prescription to your pharmacist.
- > Your pharmacist will then use the information to dispense your prescription.

Why do I still get a paper prescription?

ETP is being introduced gradually. Your GP will continue to give you a paper prescription until the system has been fully developed and tested. In the early stages your pharmacist will need to be able to scan the bar code on the paper form to get the electronic message.

How do I know that the information in the electronic message is secure?

The NHS sends and stores your electronic information in a special store using the highest standards of security.

Who will see my prescription?

The same people who can see it now and who must keep any information about you confidential.