

EMERGENCY CARE SUMMARY

Community pharmacists, with the patient's consent, can now access a patient's Emergency Care Summary (ECS) directly from their community pharmacy.

The ECS is an electronic record copied from the GP's computer system.

It contains the following information: -

- Patient's name, date of birth and address
- GP surgery
- CHI number
- Any known allergies
- Chronic and acute medication

This information may also appear in a PMR if the person regularly attends your pharmacy, but if they don't have a PMR, a supply can be made based on the information contained within the ECS.

When acting as the Responsible Pharmacist, you must ensure you have access to the ECS when on duty and access should be confirmed in advance if you are working as a locum. If you are unable to access the ECS, then please contact your Health Board to have this rectified. Details of individual Health Boards can be found on the NHS Community Pharmacy website by following this link – [NHS Boards](#). There is also guidance on accessing/troubleshooting ECS on the [Community Pharmacy Scotland \(cps.scot\)](#) website.

There may be times where, due to technical or other reasons, the ECS is unavailable. In such cases you should consider any information sources that can be provided by the person (repeat slip, empty box with pharmacy label on, verbal description only) and use your professional judgement, keeping the best interests of the person at the forefront of your decision-making at all times.

If all else fails, your local GP out of hours service may be able to help through the Direct Referral/Prof to Prof contact number.

If you are having ongoing problems accessing the ECS directly from your community pharmacy, please contact your local Health Board for advice at the earliest opportunity.