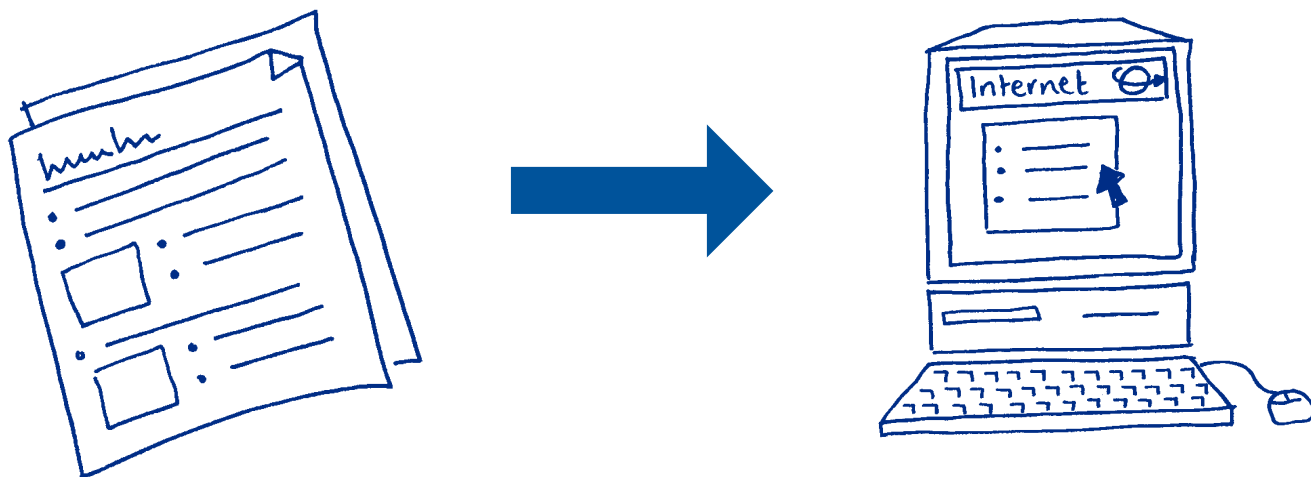
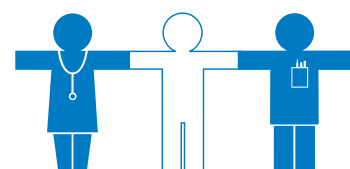


# *Moving from paper to electronic prescriptions*



This leaflet is about the changes to the way that your prescriptions will be issued and collected



# Your prescription



## What happens now

Now your doctor (GP) writes out your prescription on paper.



The prescription has to be taken to the pharmacist (chemist) who then gives you the medicine or tablets.

There are over a million prescriptions written every day in England.



7 out of 10 of these are repeat prescriptions for medicines that people need to take regularly. For example, medication for epilepsy.

## What will happen in the future

In the future your prescription will be typed in to a computer by your GP and sent to the pharmacy computer.



This new way of doing things is called The Electronic Prescription Service.



Your GP will send your prescription to a pharmacy (chemist) that you choose. For example this could be to the pharmacy near where you live.

The Electronic Prescription service has 2 stages and is going to start gradually to give everyone time to get used to it.

# Stage 1



You will still get your prescription on paper.

If you look at your prescription you will see that it will have a bar code on it.



Bar codes are the small black lines that you see on things like food packaging.



This is a picture of what a bar code might look like on a prescription.

The bar code on your prescription will help the pharmacist give you the correct medicines.



The bar code means that the pharmacist does not have to type the information about your prescription in to their computer every time you go. They will scan it in using the bar code.



The bar code will not have any of your personal information in it.

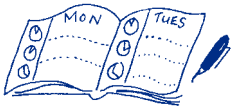


Stage 1 of the Electronic Prescription Service will be used to make sure that the new system is working properly.

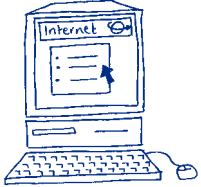


You will be told when your GP or pharmacy is going to start Stage 2.

# Stage 2



From the middle of 2006 to the end of 2007 each GP surgery and pharmacy will begin Stage 2.



You will be able to ask your GP to use the computer to send your prescription to the pharmacy you choose.



You will not have to go in to the surgery to collect a paper prescription. Instead, you will be able to go straight to the pharmacy to collect your medicines.



You will still be able to have a paper prescription if you want to.



This new way of issuing prescriptions will mean that

- you save time by not having to collect your prescription
- the GP and pharmacist will be able to be more efficient in the way they deal with prescriptions.

# Questions and answers



Here are some questions that you may have about the new Electronic Prescription Service and the answers.

## **How will I get my prescription?**

During Stage 1 it will be a paper prescription like it is now. This will change during Stage 2 and your GP or pharmacist will tell you about these changes when they happen.



## **Someone else usually gets my prescription for me. Will they still be able to do this?**

Yes. The new service will not change this.



## **Will I be able to use any pharmacy I want?**

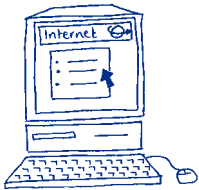
Yes. You can choose a pharmacy to have your electronic prescription sent to.



You will always be able to choose to have a paper prescription. For example, you might want a paper prescription because you are going on holiday and need to get your medicines when you are away.

## **Will I need to know anything about computers?**

No. Only your GP and pharmacist will use the computer for your prescriptions.



## **Who will see my prescription?**

Only the people who see it now. For example, you, your GP and the pharmacist.



## **What about prescriptions I get from other people?**

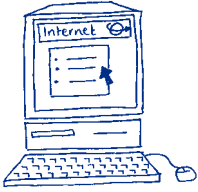
You may get prescriptions from people like your dentist, hospital doctor or nurse. They will still give you paper prescriptions.



Eventually they will be able to use electronic prescriptions.

This will only happen when we are sure that the service is working well.

# More information



The Electronic Prescription Service is going to be brought in slowly to make sure everyone gets used to the changes.



Even when the new service is available you will still be able to get paper prescriptions if this is what you want.



The new Electronic Prescription Service should make using prescriptions easier for everyone.



**You can find out more about this new service from**

- your GP
- local pharmacy (chemist)
- on the website [www.cfh.nhs.uk/eps](http://www.cfh.nhs.uk/eps)

