

Electronic Prescribing (ePrescribing)

Electronic prescribing allows for the prescribing and dispensing of medicines without the need for a paper prescription, which can improve efficiency and medicines safety.

Electronic prescribing is an initiative as part of the National Health Plan especially to support telehealth consultations and to help protect healthcare providers and patients from infectious disease, in this case COVID-19, by removing the need to present to the GP in person to get a prescription.

Instead of a paper prescription, the patient can choose to receive their prescription via an app, SMS, or email in the form of a link to a unique QR code or 'token'.

The token is scanned by the pharmacy to unlock the electronic form of the prescription from an encrypted and secure electronic prescription delivery service. If the patient has a repeat for a prescription, they will receive a new token from the pharmacy that replaces the original token. Electronic prescriptions will not be mandatory. Patients will have a choice to receive either an electronic or a paper prescription from their prescriber (but not both).

The Department of Health has announced that reimbursement of electronic prescription tokens sent via SMS will be extended until at least 30th September 2022. This includes reimbursement for both the original tokens through prescribing system and repeat tokens generated through dispensing system.

Active Script List (ASL)

ASL is an alternative way to manage ePrescriptions that can help people who are taking multiple medicines. ASL is list of all available prescriptions, including repeats. Patient do not need to keep track of tokens because the Pharmacy can access these prescriptions (with patient's permission) through the patient's ASL.

How does the ASL work?

- The patient visits their preferred pharmacy and requests to be registered for an ASL.
- Patient visits the Doctor. If the patient chooses an electronic prescription, it will be visible in their ASL by default.
- Patient visits the Pharmacy. The Pharmacy will verify the patient's identity and request consent to access their ASL via SMS or email. The Pharmacy doesn't have to be the original pharmacy where the patient had registered for their ASL.
- The Pharmacy selects the relevant prescription from the patient's ASL. The number of repeats remaining will be updated in the patient's ASL.
- The patients can choose to not to keep some prescriptions in their ASL.



NQPHN acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Australia's First Nation Peoples and the Traditional Custodians of this land. We respect their continued connection to land and sea, country, kin, and community. We also pay our respect to their Elders past, present, and emerging as the custodians of knowledge and lore.



- A carer can operate the ASL on the patient's behalf.
- Until a child turns 15 years old, a parent or guardian can register and operate an ASL on behalf of their child.
- Doctors and pharmacies that have been given explicit consent by the patient will be able to view ASL and then access the selected script token for dispensing.

The ASL is currently rolling out to pharmacies with compatible software across Australia and will become available more broadly throughout 2022. ([RACGP - Electronic prescribing](#))

For more information visit [Electronic prescriptions | Australian Digital Health Agency](#).

Benefits

- Provides greater choice for patients.
- Makes prescribing and dispensing medicines more efficient.
- May reduce prescribing and dispensing errors.
- Supports electronic medication charts in hospitals and residential aged care facilities.
- Removes the need for handling and storing a physical paper prescription.
- Supports digital health services such as telehealth services to ensure continuity of patient care.
- Provides an opportunity to protect community members and health care providers from exposure to infectious diseases (COVID-19 for example).
- Maintains patient privacy and integrity of personal information.

Training resources

- [Podcasts](#)
- [Recorded Webinar](#)
- [eLearning](#)

Peak body links

- [The Pharmacy Guild of Australia](#)
- [Pharmaceutical Society of Australia](#)
- [Department of Health and Aged Care](#)

More information

For prescribers

- The [Australian Digital Health Agency \(ADHA\) website](#) contains information, factsheets, and checklists for prescribers.
- The [My Health Record website](#) contains information on sending prescription and dispense records to a patient's My Health Record.
- [RACGP website](#) contains information for patients.
- Best Practice - [All Your ePrescribing Resources Available in One Spot](#)
- Medical Director - [How to prepare for ePrescribing with MedicalDirector Helix and Clinical](#)



For dispensers

- The [Australian Digital Health Agency \(ADHA\) website](#) contains information, factsheets, and checklists for dispensers.
- The [My Health Record](#) website contains information on sending prescription and dispense records to a patient's My Health Record.
- [RACGP website](#) contains information for patients.
- With regards to a My Health Record security and access policy, please see this [comprehensive guide by the PSA](#), which includes a policy template.
- Software/clinical workflows:
 - [Minfos](#)
 - [Zsoftware](#)
 - [Zedmed](#)
 - [FRED](#).

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