

Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) and Repeat Dispensing (RD) Hints and Tips



Repeat Dispensing (RD), (with or without EPS) offers benefits to patients, pharmacies and practice staff however is not suitable for all patients and should be seen as a “service” that the surgery can offer only to suitable, selected patients.

The system works well if the patient has all their required medication issued on one or more RD prescriptions that remain unchanged for the lifetime of the repeatable prescription

- The more medications a patient has, the greater the chance that the patient will require a change to one of the given medications during the lifetime of the prescription generated. It would be sensible, therefore, to show caution when selecting patients with respect to the number of repeat therapies that a patient has prescribed.

Inclusion Criteria: Patients with the following may be suitable for RD*:

- Patients with long term conditions stable on current medication
- Medication review not required within 6 months
- Patients on multiple therapy e.g. hypertension, diabetes, asthma etc.
- Previous regular ordering habit

*Patient suitability may be broadened based upon clinical assessment

Exclusion Criteria: Patients with the following are unlikely to be suitable for RD:

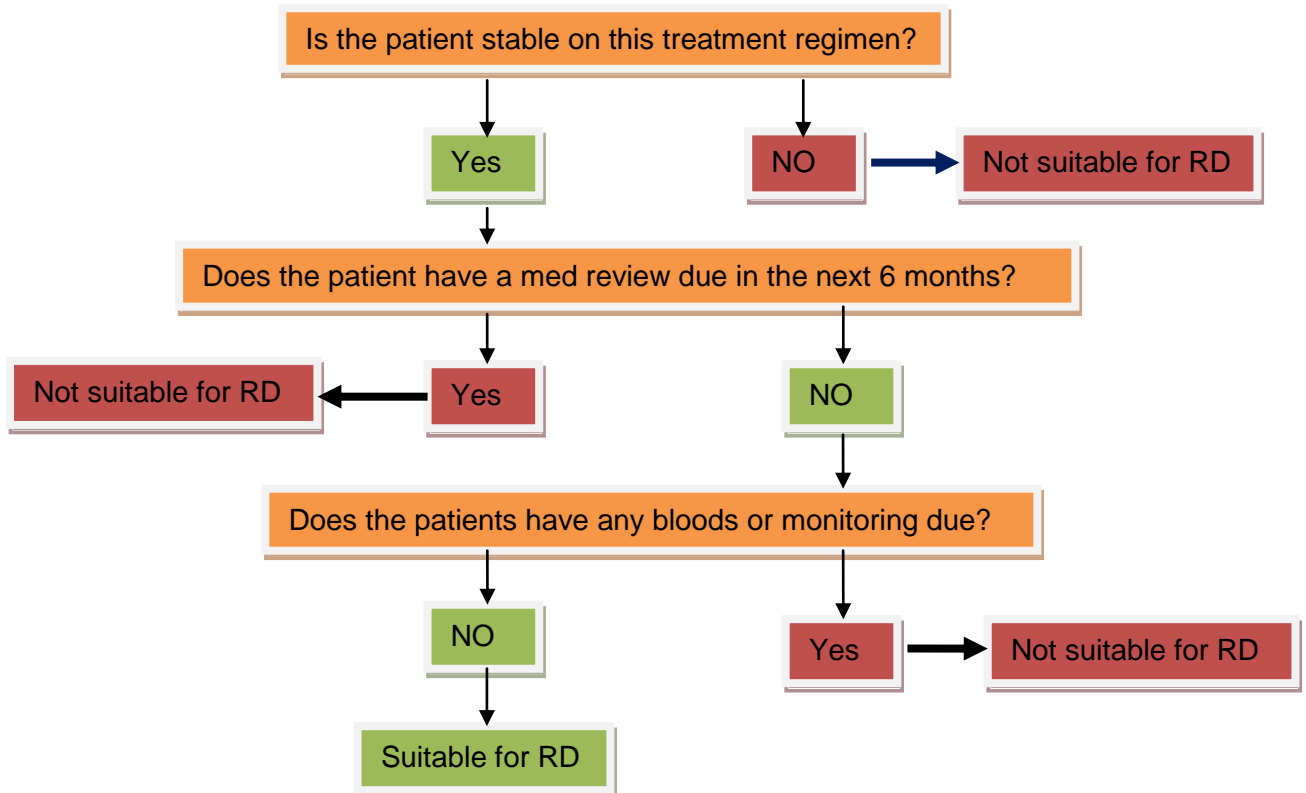
- Controlled drugs (this is a mandatory exclusion)
- PRN medicines, whether topical, oral or injectable, including hay fever medicines, GTN sprays, salbutamol for asthma
- Antidepressants or benzodiazepines.
- Warfarin
- Amber drugs, particularly DMARDs
- Requiring frequent review of their condition and medication. e.g. patients with multiple co-morbidities who are under the care of secondary care colleagues.
- Requiring frequent changes, including dose changes, to their medication.
- With irregular ordering of prescriptions or confusion over medication
- Patients that have a mixture of regular medications and PRN medications (as this can cause confusion when ordering for patients thinking that the PRN items are also on RD)
- Where there is an EPS nomination for both a pharmacy and an appliance contractor

If the patient has a prescription for any of the recommended exclusions there is little advantage to putting their other medicines on the repeat dispensing system as the patient, the pharmacy and the practice will have to operate 2 systems in parallel.

Inclusion of PRN drugs on the same RD script as regular medicines is likely to result in medicines being dispensed that are not needed and hence an increase in wasted medicines.

For both EPS and non- EPS RD scripts it is essential to communicate with the pharmacy when making changes to a patients RD prescription

Check list for practices



The GP practice must check that issue durations, quantities and directions are correct before issuing medication via RD.