



Department
of Health

The Proposals to include Schedules 2 and 3 Controlled Drugs Within the scope of the Electronic Prescription Service

Response form

Instructions for responding to the consultation

The Government wants your views on the proposals set out in the proposals to include Schedules 2 and 3 Controlled Drugs within scope of the Electronic Prescription Service. The response form below can be used to help you do that.

You can find out more and respond to this consultation at:

<http://consultations.dh.gov.uk>

The closing date for responses is 9 October 2014.

Responses received after this date may not be read. Consultation responses should be returned to: gillian.farnfield@dh.gsi.gov.uk.

Or if you would prefer to send your response by post:

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Skipton House
80 London Road
London
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What we will do next

We will read and consider all responses and publish a response to the consultation. The Government response will set out how comments and views shaped the final decisions for controlled drugs to be prescribed within the scope of electronic prescription service.

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We would appreciate it if all responses over five pages in length have a summary of the key response points.

Summary of key response points:
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Consultation questions

Current use of the NHS Electronic Prescription Service

Question 1: In the NHS, EPS can already be used for Schedules 2 and 3 controlled drugs (CDs). Do we enable NHS prescribed Schedules 2 and 3 CDs to be prescribed electronically – for England this would be EPS?

Please give reasons for your choice – comments are specifically sought about security.

Yes/No (*please underline preference*)

As long as transmission and signature can be kept secure.

Private prescriptions

Question 2: Do we enable privately-prescribed Schedules 2 and 3 CDs to be prescribed electronically? Please give reasons.

Yes/No (*please underline preference*)

But only if option 3(2) below is followed.

Question 3: We outline two options for enabling private prescriptions of Schedules 2 and 3 CDs to be prescribed electronically:

- 1) enable privately-prescribed Schedules 2 and 3 CD prescriptions using any system providing it has an advanced**

Option (2) has added security and brings all such prescribing under the same regulation standards. However, we are unsure of the legality of enforcing this.

<p>electronic signature (AES); or</p> <p>2) enable privately-prescribed Schedules 2 and 3 CD prescriptions to be electronic, but only where the prescriber/dispenser uses the NHS system, for England this would be EPS with its added security.</p> <p>Do you have a preference for either of these options? Please give reasons for your choice.</p>	
<p>Question 4: Are there any options we have not considered?</p>	<p>n/a</p>
<p>Requirement that prescriptions for Schedules 2 and 3 Controlled Drugs has the total quantity written in words and figures</p>	
<p>Question 5: If prescriptions for Schedules 2 and 3 controlled drugs are going to be enabled to be electronic, do you think that the total quantity should be written in words and figures or can this requirement be removed?</p> <p>If yes, do you think the prescribing system should apply any safeguards to validate the quantity? Please give</p>	<p><u>Yes</u>/No (<i>please underline preference</i>)</p> <p>The requirement for words and figures could be removed, but it may not make sense to do so when other non-electronic prescriptions would retain that requirement. This may create inconsistency and training problems.</p>

reasons for your view.	
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Business and equality impacts

<p>Question 6: We do not consider a business impact assessment is needed. Do you consider there are any significant impacts on any sector involved in this policy?</p>	<p>Yes/<u>No</u> (please underline preference)</p>
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<p>Question 7: Are you aware of any equality issues or of any particular group for whom the proposed policy could have a detrimental effect?</p>	<p>Yes/<u>No</u> (please underline preference)</p>
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