

Patients at King Edward Road Surgery to benefit from the Electronic Prescription Service

From 17th July 2012, patients from King Edward Road Surgery will be the fourth GP practice in Northamptonshire to benefit from the next stage of the Electronic Prescription Service (EPS).

Over the past few years, most paper prescriptions have had a barcode on them which has allowed GP Practices and pharmacies to test the technical infrastructure around EPS. This was known as EPS Release 1. Following this, we are now able to reduce the need for paper prescriptions, and instead send them electronically to a chosen pharmacy. This is known as EPS Release 2.

The EPS is a system which allows GP Practices to electronically send prescriptions to a pharmacy for the patient to pick up. Initially patients will need to choose the pharmacy from which to collect their prescription, this process is known as 'nomination'.

Nomination works in a similar way to a prescription collection service where the pharmacy collects your prescription for you instead of you having to collect it from your GP practice. The main difference with nomination is that your prescription will be sent electronically and you don't have to nominate a place that is close to your GP practice. For example, you could choose to nominate a place that is convenient to where you live, work or shop.

At the start, not all pharmacies in Northamptonshire will be able to accept electronic prescriptions. To make it easier to for you to see which ones are offering the service, they will display the sign shown below.



You will be able to nominate a pharmacy to receive your electronic prescriptions at King Edward Road Surgery, or at any EPS Release 2 enabled pharmacy. Once you have made a nomination, your GP practice may send all future prescriptions electronically to the place you have nominated, unless you specify otherwise.

At the moment, some prescriptions are unable to be sent electronically, such as those containing controlled drugs. If any of your prescriptions are not eligible for EPS your pharmacy or GP practice will make you aware of this.

The introduction of EPS means that those patients who have regular prescriptions may not need to make as many visits to their GP Practice to pick up prescriptions. It will also reduce the need for paper prescriptions in many cases. If you have any questions about the Electronic Prescription Service please ask at reception, or go to <http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/systemsandservices/eps/patients>