

Electronic Prescription Service

The EPS Release 2 validation process and the validation script: guidance for dispensers and PCTs.

This document explains the validation process, which has to be completed as part of your preparation for EPS Release 2. When this process is complete you will be able to use EPS Release 2 .

What is the validation process?

The validation process is a key activity that has to be completed before a dispensing site can go live with EPS Release 2. The process uses a validation prescription to:

- trigger the one-off EPS Release 2 allowance of a £1000 payment to the dispensing contractor
- show the dispensing site as EPS Release 2 enabled on the NHS Choices website, and therefore able to be nominated.
- allow patient nominations to be created for this dispensing site at other sites

Once the validation process is complete the dispensing site is referred to as 'fully commissioned'.

What is the validation prescription?

It is a synthetic EPS Release 2 prescription that has been specially prepared to support the validation process.

When can patients' nominations be processed?

Patient nominations for the dispensing site can be processed at the dispensing site once the site has submitted the validation prescription.

Nominations for the dispensing site can only be processed from other locations once the site is fully commissioned and therefore showing as EPS Release 2 enabled on NHS Choices.

When can electronic prescriptions be processed?

As soon as the dispensing site is fully commissioned, it will be able to use EPS Release 2. This means that a patient can nominate the site at their GP practice and that they could come to the site to collect their medication, expecting their electronic prescription to have been processed.



How is the validation prescription requested?

The dispensing system supplier is responsible for requesting the validation prescription for the dispensing site. It must submit a spreadsheet to NHS CFH with details of the dispensing site which requires the validation prescription and the approximate dates for the validation process. (System suppliers have received separate guidance on their role in requesting the validation prescription.) Once NHS CFH has received the request, it will take 20 working days to process.

Once the request is processed the supplier will receive an email from NHS CFH containing a spreadsheet of prescription GUIDS (the 18 character barcode value) – one for each dispensing site which is to be commissioned.

How is the validation prescription processed?

The dispensing site must enter the prescription GUID/ scan the barcode on the spreadsheet to download the validation prescription. Once the prescription arrives in the dispensary, the item must be 'dispensed'. The item on the prescription is Sodium Chloride, but dispensers do not need to process it like they would a real item on a real prescription, they simply need to submit the dispense notification and the electronic reimbursement endorsement messages straightaway (and not in accordance with the NHS reimbursement and remuneration policy detailed in the Drug Tariff as would be the case for the submission of reimbursement endorsement messages for payment).

The contractor will not be reimbursed for the item 'dispensed' but the NHS BSA, NHS Prescription Services will pay the EPS Release 2 Allowance of £1,000 to the contractor. This is in line with the normal schedule for payments for the pharmacy contractor.

What is the timescale for enablement?

If the electronic reimbursement endorsement message for the validation prescription is submitted before 5pm on a Tuesday, the information will be communicated to the NHSBSA and NHS Choices and will be shown as EPS Release 2 enabled by the following Monday at 8am.

If the electronic reimbursement endorsement message is submitted after 5pm on any given Tuesday, then the update will not be reflected at NHSBSA and NHS Choices until Monday week by 8am.

For example:

Submitted	Enablement
Tuesday 7 th September 10am	Monday 13 th 8am
Wednesday 8 th September 2pm	Monday 20 th 8am



How can the dispensing site check that it has been enabled successfully?

Once the relevant deadline has passed, the agreed user (either a designated person at the dispensary or system supplier) can verify that the information has been updated in three ways:

1. Use their system to confirm that the dispensing site is now showing as EPS Release 2 enabled
2. Visit NHS Choices (www.nhs.uk) and search for the dispensing site. It should be showing as EPS Release 2 enabled (for an example of how this looks see image below)
3. Check the dispensing contractor's statement to see if the NHSBSA, NHS Prescription Services have paid the EPS Release 2 allowance of £1000 in line with the normal reimbursement and remuneration timeline.

If any of the steps above fail then the user should contact the system supplier's helpdesk. There is no need to take any actions, other than those detailed above to check that the validation process is taking place once the dispense notification and the electronic reimbursement endorsement message has been submitted.

Are there pre-requisites for the validation process?

Yes. Before a dispensing site can complete the validation process the following must have taken place:

- the NHS CFH accredited Release 2 dispensing system must be technically deployed to the dispensing site
- the system supplier must have successfully proven the Release 2 installations at the dispensing site
- users at the dispensing site must have received appropriate EPS Release 2 training
- users at the dispensing site must have an appropriate user role profile on their Smartcard to operate with the EPS Release 2 system.

