

# Bulletin

Broadcast two – March 2010



NHS

Electronic  
Prescription  
Service

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## NEWS

### Progress in deploying Release 2

There are currently six GP sites and seven pharmacy sites enabled in Leeds, Cleethorpes, Nottinghamshire and Sunderland.

#### Leeds

West Lodge surgery and Liptrots pharmacy in Farsley, Leeds, went live with EPS Release 2 in November 2009, it is the second pharmacy site to go live in Leeds, following the pairing in Calverley, which went live in July 2009. These sites are using TTP SystmOne and Cegedim Pharmacy Manager.

#### Cleethorpes

Since mid January nominations and Release 2 prescription messages have been steadily increasing at Birmingham's Chemist in

Cleethorpes, which is paired with Beacon Medical Centre. These sites are also using TTP SystmOne and Cegedim Pharmacy Manager.

#### Nottinghamshire

There are two GP practices and three pharmacies in Nottinghamshire which are now able to use Release 2 and are currently prescribing and dispensing using test patient data. These sites are using TTP SystmOne, Cegedim Pharmacy Manager and RX Proscript.

#### Sunderland

Sunderland PCT has one GP practice using InPs Vision and one pharmacy using Cegedim Pharmacy Manager. These sites are prescribing and dispensing using test patient data.

For further information about the status of supplier systems visit the [NHS CFH EPS supplier status pages](#).



### Getting Ready for EPS Release 2 – SHA Events

Five [events](#) aimed at preparing strategic health authorities and primary care trusts for the delivery of EPS Release 2 are taking place this March.

The purpose of these events is to motivate, inform and provide practical assistance in implementing EPS Release 2 in their areas.

EPS leads, PCT project managers, IM&T leads, medicine management, business change, training and communication leads are encouraged to attend.

The first event took place on 11 March in Swindon.

To book a place at a forthcoming event, please click on the links below:

[16th March 2010, London](#)  
[18th March 2010, Manchester](#)  
[23rd March 2010, Coventry](#)  
[30th March 2010, York](#)

The next EPS Bulletin will include a review of these events.

### e-Learning

A new online learning resource has been introduced to support the training of health care professionals on key business processes for both prescribing and dispensing in Release 2, including:

- nomination
- electronic cancellation of prescriptions
- the use of prescription and dispensing tokens
- electronic repeat dispensing and
- electronic submission of reimbursement endorsements.

The e-learning has been divided into two modules:

**Module 1** – Introduction to the Electronic Prescription Service

**Module 2** – Business process overview

To access the e-learning, please visit the NHS CFH [Education, Training and Development](#) website.

A full review will take place in Q3 of 2010, please feedback your comments to [cfh.eps@nhs.net](mailto:cfh.eps@nhs.net)



### 10 new PCTs to be added to SoS Directions

Ten PCTs have been approved for specification in the EPS Authorisation Directions following recommendation by their SHAs. A three month notice period began on 1 February 2010 and Directions come into force on 1 May.

#### The ten PCTs are:

Bexley Care Trust  
Bolton Primary Care NHS Trust  
Bury Primary Care Trust  
Croydon PCT  
NHS Hull  
NHS North Lincolnshire  
NHS Salford  
NHS Tameside and Glossop  
North East Essex PCT  
Oldham Primary Care Trust

#### Next opportunity to be added

SHAs have until 15 April to recommend further PCTs for the next round of Directions. More information can be found on the [Department of Health EPS](#) website.

PCTs need to show readiness, be engaging with local stakeholders and meet a specific criteria in order to be recommended for listing in the Directions.

For more information on preparing for EPS Release 2 please see the [Four Stages of Implementation](#) section on the NHS CFH website.

### Translated patient leaflets now available

The EPS patient leaflet has been translated into a number of community languages including Albanian, Bengali, Croatian, French, Greek, Polish, Somali and Turkish. Translated patient leaflets are now available to order via the NHS CFH [publication ordering system](#). Alternatively, call 08453 700 760, quoting the language you require and reference number 4127. Leaflets are being translated into more languages this month.



# Bulletin

## THE LATEST POSITION ON EPS

### EMIS web

EMIS has confirmed to NHS CFH that no significant development will take place in LV (LAN) or PCS (LAN & WAN). All its effort is being focused on delivery of EMIS Web. EMIS's plan is to achieve full roll out approval for EMIS Web for EPS Release 2 on 27 April 2010.

EPS Release 1	
<b>Number of R1 prescription messages</b>	
<b>On 09 March 10</b>	<b>Total to date</b>
<b>626,903</b>	<b>309,610,180</b>
<b>Number of R1 messages used for dispensing</b>	
<b>On 08 March 10</b>	<b>Total to date</b>
<b>37,353</b>	<b>18,055,770</b>

## RECENT FAQs

Here are a few of the recent questions that have been raised by clinicians and people working with them on EPS and the answers from NHS Connecting for Health.

### Q. What information will be available to SHA and PCT staff in order to support the monitoring of nominations?

SHA and PCT staff will have access to EPS Nomination Reports which will provide information on the nomination activity of patients recorded in their Personal Demographics Service (PDS) record, by GP practices and dispensaries within England.

These reports will show activity at the following levels: SHA, PCT, site, GP/dispensary staff, and patient. Users accessing the reports will need to have a Smartcard with the appropriate Role Based Access Controls (RBAC) and business functions added.

It is envisaged that these reports will be available from 2010 (Quarter 2). In the interim, PCTs can support appropriate use of nomination by ensuring that:

- end users adhere to current legislation for nomination;
- nomination training is provided to staff as part of EPS Release 2 training;

- end users are made aware of the PCT Nomination Policy and are aware of the 4 Key Principles of Nomination;
- standard operating procedures have been established locally to ensure that nomination is communicated consistently to patients, and is captured in an auditable way; and
- complaints are thoroughly investigated.



**Q. Can a dispensing contractor in Scotland or Wales process an EPS Release 2 prescription?**

The EPS in England is being provided under the provisions laid out in the NHS pharmaceutical service regulations established for England. This means that the Department of Health is only able to determine arrangements and provisions for contractors which are located in English PCTs to be able to access the English EPS service.

The Welsh Assembly Government and the Scottish Government have the equivalent responsibilities for their own prescription services and contractors located in Wales and Scotland respectively.

The introduction of EPS will not mean that paper prescriptions will be redundant. Whilst a key benefit of the EPS is that it will reduce the paper administration associated with current prescribing and dispensing processes and that, over time, the need for paper prescriptions will reduce significantly, we anticipate that paper prescriptions will continue to be used in a number of situations, where that is more appropriate. This should allow companies in Scotland and Wales to continue to dispense products against English prescriptions.

If you have any further specific queries on this area, you may wish to consider contacting your Local Health Board or Government.

**Q. When was the Release 2 payment for community pharmacies provided to PCTs?**

With the introduction of the new Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework in April 2005, the funding for community pharmacy services is met by three sources: the central Global Sum, the retained medicines margin or PCT payments made from unified allocations. Practice payments, advanced services (medicines use reviews and prescription intervention service) and EPS allowances are funded by Primary Care Trusts from their unified allocations. In 2005, there was a reduction in the price of some generic medicines so the amount to be met by PCTs for practice payments, advanced services and EPS was cost neutral to the NHS overall. For further information, see paragraphs 5.58 - 5.61 of Implementing the New Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (draft available on the DH website).

Going forward, from April 2010, the global sum will be part of PCT allocations.

# Bulletin

## WEBSITE LATEST

The EPS website [www.cfh.nhs.uk/eps](http://www.cfh.nhs.uk/eps) is updated regularly; here are four of the key items that have been added.

### Implementation pages

Checklists have been added to the [PCT required documents and processes](#) section of the implementation pages on the EPS website. The checklists represent best practice gathered so far and will continue to be updated as further lessons are learned from the initial implementer sites.

### e-Learning

The [EPS e-learning](#) training is now available from the NHS CFH Education, Training and Development website, in both html and Flash versions.

### Updated SoS Directions form

The [form](#) used to recommend a PCT to be specified in the EPS Authorisation Directions has recently been updated to include a section for additional comments and the PCT's case for inclusion in the Secretary of State Directions.

## FEEDBACK

If you have any feedback on this email, questions about the Electronic Prescription Service or would like to invite the EPS team to an event you are planning please contact us at:

[cfh.eps@nhs.net](mailto:cfh.eps@nhs.net)

or write to us at:

**EPS Team**  
**Vantage House**  
**40 Aire Street**  
**Leeds LS1 4HT**



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