



# Prescription types

## Emergency Guidance

**Requests for prescriptions form a major workload for General Practices. Most practices have in place procedures and policies regarding acute and repeat prescriptions. Repeat prescription protocols typically require patients to be requesting prescriptions on a one to two monthly basis. A number of practices are not utilising repeat dispensing, for a significant number of patients this potentially will reduce the need for patients to attend the practice for prescriptions to once a year. This action note outlines the different types of prescriptions and links to further guidance on repeat dispensing and bulk dispensing.**

### Acute prescriptions

Issued predominantly during consultation with GP. Such prescriptions are not intended for re-prescribing without review. Medication added to the acute section of the medication tab should never be prepared for signing by non-clinical staff.

### Repeat prescriptions

Suitable for patients on long-term medication that is used either continuously or when required. The number of pre-authorized prescriptions will need to be specified for all medication added to the repeat section of the medication tab. This number should be based on the intended review date as non-clinical staff will prepare all prescriptions until the medication requires re-authorization. Controlled drugs and antidepressants can be added to the repeat section but the number of pre-authorized prescriptions should be set at the prescribers' discretion. Risk of overuse and overdose should be taken into consideration. Medication in this section may often change based on GP review or secondary care input.

### Repeat dispensing prescription

Suitable for patients on stable long-term medication for conditions which are unlikely to change in the short to medium term and also patients who can self-manage seasonal conditions – please see guidance provided on repeat dispensing for further information. Please note, controlled drugs cannot be issued as repeat dispensing prescriptions and patients must use the same pharmacy for all prescriptions issued as part of one batch.



**A guide to how repeat dispensing may benefit patients and practices has been produced by Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) .**





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### Bulk prescriptions

Used mainly for nursing and care homes, a bulk prescription is an order for two or more patients bearing the name of an institution in which at least 20 persons normally reside, 10 or more of whom are registered with a particular GP practice. Only items that can be bought from a pharmacy can be issued on bulk prescription as 'Prescription Only Medicines' (POM) cannot be issued on bulk prescriptions. Please see guidance provided on bulk prescriptions for further information.

**!** **Read the guidance provided on bulk prescriptions for further information on how this can help free up time in your practice.**