

## NZePS

### Memo: Approval to issue Controlled Drug ePrescriptions

Due to COVID-19 authorised prescribers can issue Controlled Drug (CD) ePrescriptions (eliminating the need to hand write triplicate forms) as soon as the practice has completed the NZePS activation, rather than having to request this approval at a later date.

**Please note:** It is very important for CD ePrescriptions that the practice ensures the activation has been successful by creating some dummy prescriptions and checking with their key pharmacy that they can read the barcodes and successfully download the ePrescriptions from the NZePS broker.

For CD ePrescriptions they must be downloaded from NZePS to be legal CD prescriptions. If they are not able to be downloaded the pharmacy will request a triplicate form.

#### Key points to note

- All current rules and regulations apply for CD barcoded ePrescriptions regardless of format (i.e. electronic or triplicate form) e.g. no forward dating of prescriptions allowed.
- No hand-written amendments are allowed on any barcoded ePrescription (i.e. Controlled Drug or non-controlled drug barcoded ePrescription).
- NZePS Class B Controlled Drug items (previously on a triplicate form) must be printed on a separate prescription form (with own barcode) to non-controlled drugs except where the ingredients are used in the making of syringes and clear instructions stipulate the medicines to be included in the syringe.
- Multiple Controlled Drug items can be printed on the same prescription form. If there are too many Controlled Drug items to fit on one page then multiple pages will be printed. All pages will have the same barcode number and are treated as one prescription.
- The signed original is still required to be sent to the pharmacy for faxed / emailed barcoded eRxS for CDs within the required timeframe.
- If a patient presents with a request to reissue a barcoded prescription (for whatever reason) then: Use the '**Reprint**' function as this will generate a prescription with the **same barcode number and date as the original**, ensuring it can only be dispensed once.

#### Methadone

**If prescribers are authorised to prescribe Methadone please see example script and information in the Getting Started Guide (link below). This will show how the script needs to be completed to avoid any problem at the pharmacy end.**

Link to the Getting Started Guide is below - click 'Setting up and Using NZePS' and found under 'Downloads'

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/ehealth/other-ehealth-initiatives/emedicines/new-zealand-eprescription-service>