

# ETP Service for Community Pharmacy – April '09

FACT SHEET , ISSUE 2 – April 2009

Primary Care Informatics Programme  
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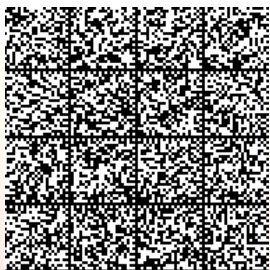


Royal Cymdeithas  
Pharmaceutical Fferyllol  
Society Frenhinol  
of Great Britain Prydain Fawr  
Welsh Pharmacy Board Bwrdd Fferyllol Gymru

[http://www.lpc-online.org.uk/community\\_pharmacy\\_wales](http://www.lpc-online.org.uk/community_pharmacy_wales)  
<http://www.rpsgb.org/wales/fmt.html>

## Stage 1 – GP Systems

Since January 2008, the first stage of the 2DRx project workstream has been underway, being overseen by the *Primary Care Informatics Programme* on behalf of the national community pharmacy IM&T programme board.



Specifically, this has been addressing the GP systems' requirement to generate a 2-dimensional barcode on the patient prescription, which contains all the visible prescription information as well as the unique drug codes for each of the medications prescribed.

Throughout the summer and autumn of 2008, each of the GP systems operating on the GMS Contractual Framework in Wales were tested by the *Primary Care Informatics Programme's* compliance team and this led to a subsequent period of refined development and 'bug fixes', which were completed by the end of December 2008.

For the first three months of 2009, each of the main system suppliers have been piloting 2DRx functionality – 2D barcoded prescriptions – in a controlled live environment and have now commenced staged rollout across Wales.

## Stage 2 – CP Systems

During the past three months, the second phase of the 2DRx project commenced for the CP systems requirement to decode barcoded prescriptions, generated by GP practices.

Currently, only one pharmacy system supplier has been given authority by the Programme to commence its development and others are now being reviewed. For further information about progress with each of the pharmacy systems in Wales, please see links in the following webpage:

<http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/wmss>

Although it is understood that community pharmacies in Wales cannot yet scan these barcodes to decode the data, barcoded prescriptions will bring about certain changes 'on the ground' and there may be some queries requiring clarification for pharmacies. These are shown in the following FAQ Section.

Information about the 2DRx project in general is being made available online, through the CPW website as well as the Royal Pharmaceutical Society website.

## FAQs (FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS)

### What happens if a barcoded prescription is incorrect from the GP practice?

2DRx – like all other ETP systems – is principally designed to rule out manual errors between the GP and the community pharmacy by avoiding re-keying of information from what is shown on the prescription. However, where the data on the prescription itself is incorrect (for example, an incorrect dosage for a drug item has been entered by the Prescriber), the pharmacist should endorse the prescription and dispense correctly, as normal.

### Should I be sending the barcoded prescription back to the GP practice for them to alter the patient record?

Pharmacies should perform the same tasks as they currently do, to inform a GP that the patient record is incorrect and 2DRx does not affect this

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practice. It is hoped that advances in IT technologies will in time provide a streamlined way to communicate this kind of information between CP and GP practices.

### What should I do if a barcoded prescription has manual alterations on it, changing the drugs/quantities etc?

It is known that some prescriptions are generated by Prescribers and then changed after being printed. GP data quality is being addressed separately through guidance and Best Practice awareness, but for the time being, pharmacies should continue to check with the GP that any alterations are *bona fide* and then endorse the prescription in the usual way. *From a specified date in the future, pharmacies will be advised that any manually altered prescriptions should not be accepted.*

For further FAQs on 2DRx, please see links in the following webpage:

<http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/wmss>