

## What is Repeat Dispensing?

It is a new way of getting your medicines without having to ask the doctor for a prescription each time.

## How does Repeat Dispensing Work?

Your doctor will give you several prescription forms; a “repeatable prescription” (a prescription with “RA” on it that is signed by the doctor) also a set of “batch prescriptions” (prescriptions with “RD” on them, not signed by the doctor). The new repeatable prescriptions cannot be hand written.

With these prescriptions you can collect your medicines from the pharmacy at regular intervals for up to 12 months without having to contact your doctor. Your doctor will decide how often you should collect your prescription and how long it will last for.



## Do I need to see my doctor before I get a new repeatable prescription?

Yes, your doctor will make sure it is safe for you to get your medicines in this new way. Not all medicines can be supplied on a repeatable prescription.

## Do I need to sign anything before I start?

Yes, you will have to sign a consent form, to allow your pharmacist and doctor to exchange information about your treatment. All information will be handled in confidence.

## Do I have to use repeat dispensing?

No, you do not have to get your medicines in this way.

## Is repeat dispensing suitable for everyone?

No, it is **only** suitable for patients whose medical condition is described as “stable” by their doctor.

## What do I do with the prescriptions?

Take **all** of the prescriptions to your usual pharmacy. The pharmacist will keep all the prescriptions and will give you your medicines at regular intervals as agreed by your doctor. He/she will answer any questions you might have about the Repeat Dispensing Scheme.

## Do I sign all the prescriptions forms at the same time?

No, the pharmacist will be looking after your batch prescription forms for you, and he/she will get you to sign a batch prescription each time you go to pick up your medicines.

## How often do I need to go to the pharmacy?

Your doctor and pharmacist will tell you, for example it may be monthly or “as and when you need it” depending on the type of medicine.

## Do I have to use the same pharmacy?

Yes, as the pharmacist keeps all your prescriptions and is responsible for checking each time that you still need all your medicines and are not having any problems with them.



If you move or change address or cannot use the pharmacy you choose, you will have to go back to your doctor for a new repeatable prescription.

## Do I need to tell the pharmacist anything?

Yes, for example if there has been a change in your condition or if you are taking other medicines (to check it is safe to take these). The pharmacist will ask you some questions about this each time you pick up your medicines.

## Does the pharmacist have to give me everything on my batch prescription form?

No, not if you have plenty of one or more of your medicines left at home, but your pharmacist will ask you, or whoever is collecting your prescription, some questions to check what is still needed.

## What should I do when my first set of medicines are about to finish?

You should go back to your pharmacist and he/she will give you your next batch of medicines.

### Who do I talk to if I think I am having side effects from my medicines?

If you have problems speak to your pharmacist. He/she may ask you whether your medicine is helping you and may contact your doctor if this is not the case. Please do not worry about this, your doctor or pharmacist will not make any changes without talking to you.

### What happens if I pay for my prescriptions?

You have to pay a prescription charge for each item every time you get a prescription dispensed. You may find that a prescription pre-payment certificate could save you money. Ask your pharmacist for details.

### What happens if I forget to collect my medication and the pharmacy is closed for the weekend or a bank holiday?

If you find you are short of medicine you can get an “emergency supply” of most medicines from any pharmacy. The pharmacist will need details of your doctor and what medicines you are taking. They will be able to give you a few days supply of your medicines but there will be a **charge** for these “emergency” medicines and you must let your usual pharmacist know about this.

### What should I do if I am going on holiday?

Speak to your pharmacist well in advance of your travel date. Depending on how your prescription is written it may be possible for you to collect your medication in advance. Alternatively the pharmacist may speak to your doctor to help arrange a supply of medicines for you.

### What do I do when my final batch prescriptions has been dispensed?

You will need to visit your doctor *before* your final supply of medicine runs out and have your medicines reviewed.

If your doctor is happy that your condition is still stable and your medicines do not need changed, you will be given another repeatable prescription.

A repeatable prescription will be more convenient for you as you will not need to contact your doctor each time it needs to be repeated



Repeatable Prescription

Batch Issues

If you have any further questions regarding this scheme, please ask your pharmacist or doctor they will be happy to help you.



Department of  
**Health, Social Services  
and Public Safety**

An Roinn  
**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta  
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## Repeat Dispensing Scheme Patient Information Leaflet

