



The Pharmacy  
Guild of Australia  
NSW Branch



# Guild Alert

## Electronic Prescriptions - UPDATE

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The Australian Digital Health Agency has announced that electronic prescriptions (ePrescriptions) are set to roll out across Metropolitan Sydney, encompassing Hornsby shire in the north, to the city of Campbelltown in the south and the city of Penrith in the west, in the coming weeks. This next stage of the ePrescription program follows the successful rollout across all of Victoria in September.

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### Introduction of the Active Script List

The Australian Digital Health Agency has recently published the Active Script List (ASL) Conformance Profile for software vendors and it's expected this important innovation will be introduced into testing via the Communities of Interest (COI) in the coming weeks. The ASL or simply, Script List, will allow a pharmacy to support their patients, particularly those with multiple medication needs, without needing to manage the ePrescription tokens via their smartphone.

For more information and to access education, webinars and resources visit:  
<https://www.guild.org.au/guild-branches/nsw/guild-clinical/electronic-prescriptions>.

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## Still Time To Register: Electronic prescriptions webinar: digital infrastructure basics for pharmacy – 28th October 2020

The implementation of electronic prescriptions is well underway, with a managed roll-out occurring in some regions across Australia.

Pharmacy staff are encouraged to implement the electronic prescription readiness checklist to ensure they are ready to accept electronic prescriptions. This webinar will address the technical prerequisites of dispensing electronic prescriptions, including how to connect to the Healthcare Identifiers Service and the digital certificates required within your dispensary software.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to ask questions.

**Organiser:** Australian Digital Health Agency (ADHA)

**Date:** Wednesday, 28 October 2020, 6.30-7.30pm, AEDT

**To Register:** [Click here](#)

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## Preparing your pharmacy for ePrescriptions

Please be sure to:

1. Contact your software vendor and ask them to activate your electronic prescription functionality. This ensures a national capability for ePrescriptions can happen as soon as possible and your pharmacy will be technically capable to support patients with ePrescriptions
  2. Ensure your pharmacy team attends or accesses education and awareness sessions by the ADHA, your software vendor and the Guild to familiarise your team with ePrescriptions and how it will best work in your pharmacy
  3. Watch for regular updates on progress towards national readiness including on the Guild's dedicated section
  4. Please email any queries to our Membership team at [membership@nsw.guild.org.au](mailto:membership@nsw.guild.org.au).
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## Guidelines for dispensing a conformant electronic prescription

(Source: Judith Mackson, Chief Pharmacist and Director, Chief Pharmacist Unit, Ministry of Health)

- The pharmacy proprietor and the dispensing pharmacist must ensure that all of the systems participating in the prescribing, transmission and dispensing of the prescription conform under the national [Electronic Prescribing Conformance Assessment Scheme](#) and that the electronic prescription has the details required for it to be legally valid in NSW.
- The on-screen display only is the legally valid prescription. The paper or digital token presented to the pharmacy is not a legal prescription.
- The requirements for conformant electronic prescriptions are the same as for paper prescriptions with a few variations:
  - Patient date of birth is required.

- Prescribers do not need to hand write or hand sign the prescription, nor underline or initial any dose that could be regarded as dangerous or unusual
- S4B and S8 medicine prescriptions do not need to be kept in hardcopy nor stored separately.
- Repeats of electronic prescriptions for S4B and S8 medicines do not have to be dispensed at the same pharmacy which dispensed the original supply. A patient may take the new token for the repeat prescription to a different pharmacy.
- For S8 medicine prescriptions, the quantity to be dispensed does not need to be written in words in addition to figures.
- For S8 medicine prescriptions that include all required details, a pharmacist does not need to contact the prescriber to verify the prescription where the pharmacist does not know the patient. If a pharmacist has doubt about the identity of the prescriber or any other aspect of the prescription or the patient's treatment he/she should contact the prescriber directly.
- A prescription for a S4B or S8 medicine with repeat/s specified must show an interval for repeats. If no repeat interval appears, directions for any repeat supplies are invalid and no repeats can be dispensed. The prescription should be electronically cancelled to prevent a new token from being issued.
- The on-screen display must show the NSW Authority number where required, for:
  - a S8 psychostimulant (e.g. dexamfetamine, lisdexamfetamine, methylphenidate)
  - a pharmacist-compounded S8 medicine
  - a S4 medicine listed in clause 37 of the Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008 (e.g. clomiphene, isotretinoin), unless the prescriber belongs to an authorised specialist group and the prescription includes the prescriber's relevant specialist qualification and "issued under clause 37 of the Poisons Regulation" or words to that effect.
- Pharmacists must be confident the token presented by the patient or his/her authorised agent has not been fraudulently obtained or altered.

Further information on validity of electronic prescriptions in NSW is available at [www.health.nsw.gov.au/pharmaceutical/Pages/electronic-prescribing.aspx](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/pharmaceutical/Pages/electronic-prescribing.aspx).

A summary of all legal forms of prescriptions is at [www.health.nsw.gov.au/pharmaceutical/Pages/legal-form-prescription.aspx](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/pharmaceutical/Pages/legal-form-prescription.aspx).

For more information and to access education, webinars and resources visit: <https://www.guild.org.au/guild-branches/nsw/guild-clinical/electronic-prescriptions>.

For any queries, please call our Membership team on 13-GUILD (13 484 53).

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