



Electronic Prescriptions

An overview for prescribers

Electronic prescriptions are providing Australians convenient access to their medicines and will improve patient safety by reducing the risk of transcription errors.

Electronic prescriptions are being rolled out across Australia and are currently available by providing a 'token' for patients to receive access to their electronic prescription.

The Active Script List (ASL), a token management solution, is expected to be included as part of clinical software functionality before the end of the year. The ASL will provide further convenience for patients, especially those who are on multiple medicines.

How it works:

Token

Currently available



1. A patient attends the doctor and requires a prescription.
2. If the patient chooses, an electronic prescription is provided.
3. The patient receives an SMS or email message with a token from their doctor which they provide to their preferred pharmacy.
4. The pharmacy scans the token to view the electronic prescription and supply the medicine.
5. If the prescription has repeats, then a new token is provided to the patient via SMS or email by the pharmacy.

Active Script List (ASL)

Available soon

A patient may want their electronic prescriptions in a consolidated list so that they can be more easily managed.

The ASL is a list of all active prescriptions and repeats available to be dispensed. An ASL removes the need for the patient to receive their tokens via SMS or email and retain their tokens.

1. A patient attends their preferred pharmacy prior to attending the doctor and requests to be registered for an ASL. The patient needs to accept the terms and conditions, agreeing that all prescriptions will go to their ASL unless they withdraw their consent.
2. The patient attends the doctor and requires a prescription.
3. If the patient chooses, an electronic prescription is provided and is automatically added to the ASL unless they ask the doctor not to. The patient does not need a token but can receive one if they want.
4. The patient then presents to their preferred pharmacy, validates their identity and receives their medicine.
5. If there are repeats, they will be added to the ASL depending on the patient's choice.



An electronic prescription is a legal form of prescription, PBS and State and Territory legal requirements apply.

Only clinical software which conforms to the Electronic Prescribing technical framework developed by the Australian Digital Health Agency can generate and dispense electronic prescriptions.

The technical framework specifies the requirements for privacy, security and safety that must be included in clinical software that can prescribe or dispense electronic prescriptions.

This ensures that electronic prescriptions are transmitted in a secure and encrypted manner.

