



Digital Prescribing and Dispensing Pathways

May 2022

The Digital Prescribing and Dispensing Pathways (DPDP) programme is focused on revolutionising the prescribing and dispensing process in Scotland by replacing the paper prescription with a digital solution in all primary and community care settings. This will meet the legislative requirements for the Advanced Electronic Signature (AES) and replace the wet signature.

The Programme will bring with it a number of benefits:

- Improved **patient experience**
- Improved system **safety and efficiency** for prescribers and dispensers, which will drive service sustainability
- **Multi-professional** and **multi-location** digital prescribing, which will support new service models
- Support for **climate sustainability** by reducing the use, transport, scanning and destruction of paper.

The Programme is approaching the end of the discovery phase and will now focus on the design of our end-to-end digital solution. A number of important strategic decisions are now required to align with our SG sponsor's strategic needs and support this highly complex delivery.

Practice Managers Engagement:

The programme is engaging with the many groups involved in the prescribing and dispensing pathway to listen to their current experience and understand what they need from the programme.

In this update we share what we have heard from Practice Managers through a survey of 950* GP practice managers across Scotland which was carried out in November 2021. 217 respondents shared their feedback on the current prescribing process and their views on the future.

The survey found that 99% of respondents* would be ready and willing to move to digital prescribing.

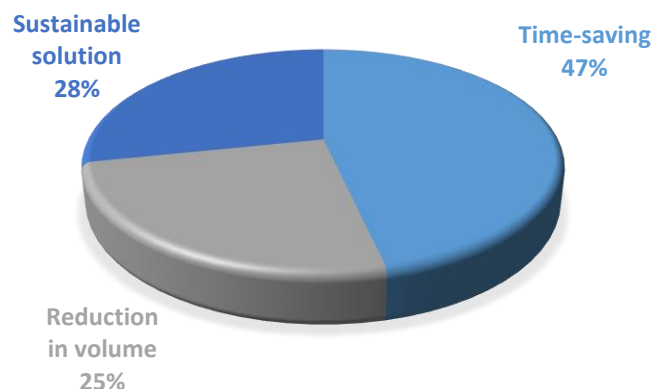
The main identified benefits were:

Time-saving – 46%

Reduction in volume – 25%

Sustainable solution – 28%

With 97% of the administration teams involved in the prescription process Practice Managers cited the following benefits for a move to electronic prescribing.



“Save time for prescribers, cut down on lost prescriptions between GP practice and local pharmacy and patient loss. Quicker production for the patient and pharmacy.”

“Waiting time reduced for patient. Less time needed by GPs to sign scripts. Reduced footfall in surgery as patients and chemists not needing to collect physical scripts.”

“Would save time on printing prescriptions, save paper and save ink! Also no more “lost” prescriptions.”

Frances Love from Mount Florida Medical Centre highlights the potential benefits for Practice Managers of moving to digital prescribing – <https://youtu.be/dYjBsZslomE>

The survey concluded:

- The responses received evidence that a paper-based system does not make best use of the scarce resource in primary care with administration staff spending time managing requests for prescriptions and printing these out and clinicians spending significant amounts of time signing prescriptions.
- The current process is perceived to be laborious and ‘clunky’.
- The consensus was the Practice Manager colleagues would welcome a streamlined, efficient digital process to elevate the performance of the practice and in turn enhance the patient experience.

Further Information:

To find out more about the on-going work or to attend a forthcoming event please contact:

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