



**Guidance for Pharmacy Contractors on the issue of Smartcards for EPS R2**

There appears to be a great deal of misunderstanding regarding the need for pharmacy support staff to be issued with the RA01 Smartcards needed to access Electronic Prescriptions from the Spine under EPS Release 2 - to confirm:

- Access to Electronic Prescriptions and other functions (such as patient nominations) under EPS R2 can only be effected with an RA01 Smartcard; **all members of the pharmacy team** who will download EPS R2 prescriptions as part of their role **MUST** have their own RA01 Smartcard - it is **PROHIBITED** under the terms of issue to use another person's Smartcard or allow such use of your own Smartcard in order to access EPS R2 prescriptions or any other process.
- Premises Smartcards issued for business continuity purposes under EPS R1 are **NOT** permitted under R2 so once your PMR system has been updated to be able to access R2 prescriptions, you will need to use your own Smartcard when you access the spine to download prescriptions under either release. To ensure business continuity under R2, all members of the pharmacy team should be encouraged to have their own Smartcards; note that those members of the team who do not normally work in the dispensary do not necessarily have to be trained on all the aspects of the dispensary PMR system, but they will have to be competent in relation to all of the EPS R2 functions.
- Smartcards issued to individuals under EPS R1 can be upgraded to R2 by the IT Support team; you will need to contact the Smartcard Helpdesk (see below)

If you want further information, please contact the Smartcard Helpdesk:

Telephone: 0300 123 1536

Email: [smartcardhelpdesk@northstaffs.nhs.uk](mailto:smartcardhelpdesk@northstaffs.nhs.uk)

Fax: 01782652720

Address: Heron House, 120 Grove Road, Stoke on Trent Staffordshire, ST4 4LX

Please also note the guidance on applying for or managing Smartcards, available on the LPC Website.