Identifying the differences EPS Phase 4 token vs bar-coded paper prescription

Community pharmacy teams should familiarise themselves with the various prescription forms and tokens they will encounter. This factsheet compares the differences between Release 1 (R1) barcoded paper prescriptions and EPS Phase 4 non-nominated paper tokens

Both types of these forms are printed by prescribers onto green FP10SS stationery and both include barcodes and barcode numbers on the right. Depending on the type of form, these will be processed differently by pharmacy teams. The image comparison below sets out the key differences to look out for. Phase 4 tokens may look identical to other EPS prescription tokens.

Release 1 (R1) barcoded paper prescription (with an electronic prescription message)

Prescription token (issued in parallel with a legal electronic NHS **prescription**) e.g. **Phase 4** non-nominated paper tokens

Barcode number length: The barcode is twice as long on a Release 1 (R1) barcoded paper prescription compared to the EPS token short 18-character token number.

Signature boxes: R1 barcoded paper prescriptions must include an ink signature whereas Tokens include wording ("PRESCRIPTION TOKEN – Not to be used as a prescription, even if signed by an authorised prescriber")

Read more at including tips and FAQs at: **psnc.org.uk/tokens**, **psnc.org.uk/phase4** and within the **EPS-related forms and tokens factsheet**.