

User Guide

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Introduction

ePRaSE (ePrescribing Risk and Safety Evaluation) is a web-based assessment tool designed to help NHS hospital Trusts evaluate and optimise their electronic prescribing (EP) systems. The tool supports safer prescribing practices by identifying system strengths and vulnerabilities through simulated scenarios.

Each Trust completes the assessment annually. The tool generates a set of 15 fictional patients and 45 prescribing test scenarios, which users run in their live or test EP environments. The tool then evaluates how well the system mitigates prescribing risks and provides a real-time report with visual summaries.

Key Features of Version 2025:

- Separate assessments for adult and paediatric inpatient systems which can both be done within the same institution.
- Up to four users per Trust can register and contribute to the same assessment (**only one person to access the assessment at one time**).
- Multiple EP systems can be tested within the same institution.
- Real-time feedback and visual reporting to support system optimisation.

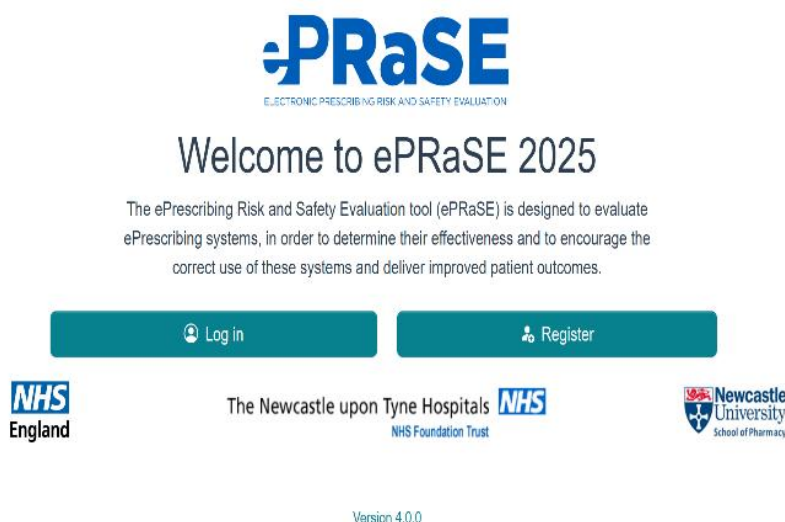
User Checklist: Getting Started with ePRaSE

Before beginning the assessment, ensure the following:

- You have an nhs.uk or nhs.net email address.
- You are connected to the NHS network (HSCN) or have remote access set up.
- You have access to your Trust's live or test EP system.
- You can allocate 4-6 hours for patient setup and scenario testing (split sessions).
- You have support from colleagues with permissions to admit/edit patients and prescribe.
- You are using a compatible browser (Chrome, Firefox, Safari, Edge, Opera).

Access and registration

To begin using ePRaSE, visit: <https://eprase.nhs.uk>



Access Requirements

- You must have an **nhs.uk** or **nhs.net** email address.
- The tool is only accessible from within the **NHS network (HSCN)** or via **remote access**.
- If access fails at a work location, contact your **IT support team** to check for firewall restrictions.

Supported Browsers

- Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Microsoft Edge, Safari, Opera.

Registration Steps

All users must register **each year**, even if previously registered.

1. Go to <https://eprase.nhs.uk>
2. Click **Register**
3. Enter your **NHS email address**
4. Select your **Trust name**
5. Create and securely store your **password**
6. Click **Register** to confirm
7. Log in using your email and password

Once logged in, you will be directed to the **ePRaSE homepage**.

EPRaSE homepage

Tips for Homepage

- Progress bar is provided at the top of the page
- A bottom button bar provides pop-up windows for **About**, **User Guide** and **Contact** if help is needed.

ePRaSE Assessment 2025

Introduction to ePRaSE Start Or Continue Assessment ePrescribing System Information Patient Build Scenarios Configuration Questions Final Report Exit

Introduction

The following annual assessment evaluates ePrescribing system performance against a range of indicators. You will be asked to admit a series of test patients to your hospital's admissions system, and then prescribe a series of medications to those patients. You will then be asked to record any feedback about how your EP system responds to the prescription, for example, you were able to complete the prescription without any additional user or system input or you were able to complete the prescription with system/user intervention.


User Instructions


The assessment comprises 4 parts:


1. System Information
Provide details of the ePrescribing system in use in your hospital.
2. Patient Build
Create test patients with name, date of birth, gender and clinical information.
3. Scenarios
Prescribe a series of medication to each test patient and provide details about ePrescribing system responses.
4. Configuration Questions
Answer additional questions about your ePrescribing system.

Disclaimer: These patients have been designed to support the test tool and may not necessarily resemble real life. *Please enter all information exactly as presented.*

Continue to Assessment Selection

 About

 User Guide

 Contact


Starting the Assessment

Once registered and logged in, begin your assessment by following these steps:

Step-by-Step Instructions

1. Click the **Continue to assessment selection** button on the homepage.
2. **Start a new assessment:**
 - Choose your **ePrescribing system** from the dropdown list.
 - Select either **Adult** or **Paediatric** assessment.
3. **Review** the two consent questions.
4. If you log out during the process, your progress will be saved. On return:
 - Log in again.
 - Click **Select** to resume your current assessment.
5. A **progress bar** at the top of the screen will show how far you have progressed.

ePRaSE Assessment 2025



Assessment Selection

It is now possible to test more than one type of ePrescribing System deployed in your trust. Users can also do both an adult and a separate paediatric assessment for an individual EP system. If both adult and paediatric prescribing are undertaken, **both assessments should be completed**. Please work through each assessment one at a time i.e., complete one assessment fully before starting the next.

Start a new assessment

For ePrescribing system *

For patient type *

☐ Adults

☐ Paediatrics

☐ Good mitigation results from this ePRaSE assessment will be shared with other NHS trusts to support learning on EP system optimisation.
If you do not consent to sharing your data, please opt out by checking this box

☐ Good mitigation results may be shared with EP system suppliers to support learning on EP system optimisation.
If you do not consent to sharing your data, please opt out by checking this box

[Continue to System Information](#)

[About](#)
[User Guide](#)
[Contact](#)

You can continue with any of the following assessments:

ePrescribing System	Patient Type	Assessment Status	Created on	Last Update	User
Allscripts Sunrise (Altera)	Adult	System complete	08-10-2025	08-10-2025 13:11	testingnew@nhs.net

[Select](#)

Entering System Information

The first part of the assessment involves entering details about your Trust's ePrescribing system. This helps establish the system's configuration and usage context before testing begins.

What to Expect

- You will be asked a series of questions about your EP system.
- Some questions are **mandatory** (marked with an asterisk).
- Some questions appear **conditionally**, based on your previous answers.
- You will also complete **checkbox questions** about:
 - Types of medicines prescribed
 - Areas of the Trust where the system is used

Please answer the following questions about your ePrescribing System:

ePrescribing system implementation date *

Last ePrescribing system update date *

How many WTE maintain the drug catalogue and prescribing decision support for this system? *

Approximately what percentage of inpatient prescription orders are prescribed through the eP system across your organisation? *

Other ePrescribing systems in use

Patient Build

Once system information is entered, the tool will generate a set of **15 fictional patients**—either adult or paediatric, depending on your selected assessment type.



What to Do

1. **Create patient profiles** in your live or test EP environment using the details provided.
2. Follow your **local operating procedures** for patient admission and prescribing.
3. If your EP system pulls data from PAS (Patient Administration System), use this method—even if it takes longer.
4. You may need support from colleagues with permissions to:
 - Admit or edit patients
 - Prescribe medications
5. Use **dummy data** where needed (e.g. fictional GP details).
6. Enter **all clinical information** for each patient, including any data in the **labs, allergy tabs etc.**
7. After completing each patient:
 - Click **Data entry in progress** to mark it as complete.
 - Use the tabs to navigate between patients.
 - The assessment tracks the progress at the top of the patient build section.
8. Once all patients are built, click **Continue to Scenarios** to begin the prescribing tests.
9. You can save and exit at any time using **Save progress & log out**.

You have entered 0 of 15 patients

Ada zzzRowell

Profile


Allergies

Comorbidities

Presenting Complaints

Current Medication

Clinical Data



First name	Ada
Surname	zzzRowell
DOB	20/05/1990
Age	35 years
Gender	Female
Height (cm)	164
Weight (kg)	120

Data entry in progress ...

Carolyn zzzRoberts

Rachel zzzRamoray

John zzzDevonshire

Simon zzzTam

Tips for Efficient Patient Build


- **Coordinate with your EP team:** Ensure someone with prescribing/admission rights is available to assist.
- **Use copy-paste wisely:** For repeated fields (e.g. GP details), prepare a template to speed up entry.
- **Work in pairs:** One person can enter data while another verifies accuracy.
- **Schedule dedicated time:** Allocate 1.5–2 hours without interruptions to complete the build smoothly.
- **Save regularly:** Use the “Save progress & log out” feature to avoid losing work.
- **Double-check tabs:** Ensure all clinical tabs are completed before marking a patient as done.
- **Important for Paediatric Assessments:** Some tests are **age-sensitive** (e.g. gestational age) so to avoid data mismatch, complete the **patient build and testing within 48 hours**.

Prescribing Test Scenarios

After completing the patient build, you will begin the core part of the assessment: prescribing test scenarios. These are designed to evaluate how your EP system responds to various prescribing risks.

What to Do

1. **Complete 45 scenarios**—3 for each of the 15 patients.
2. **Prescribe exactly as instructed** in each scenario using your EP system.
3. Ensure you are logged in with **consultant status** to avoid formulary restrictions.
4. After each test:
 - Record the system's response using the on-screen options.
 - Confirm that the prescription has been **discontinued** before moving to the next scenario.
 - Click **Save response** to submit your answer.
 - Once submitted, answers **cannot be changed**.
 - Select **Next scenario** to view the next scenario.

 Patient: Ada zzzRowell, age: 35 years

Scenario 1

Scenario 2

Scenario 3

Prescribe the following medication to the specified patient using your normal prescribing practice, then answer the questions below.

Drug	Gentamicin
Dose	840mg
Route	Injection/intravenous
Frequency	Every 24 hours (daily)
Duration	48 hours
Justification	Septicaemia

Questions

Which of the following best describes the response from the system when you attempted to prescribe the specified drug? *

☐ You were able to complete the prescription (includes followed order sentence) **without any additional user or system input**

☐ You were able to complete the prescription, **but had to override components of the order sentence**


☐ You were able to complete the prescription, **with system/user intervention**

☐ Prevented from prescribing

☐ Medicine or formulary alternative not available in the system






Please discontinue the prescription order before proceeding to the next scenario

☐ I have done this

 Save response

System Response Options















When recording observations, choose one of the following:

-  **No intervention:** You placed the order for the new medicine using your normal processes, which may have included the selection of a provided order sentence and did not receive any advice or information from the electronic prescribing system.
-  **Prescription override:** You placed the order for the new medicine but had to ignore, modify, or override a provided order sentence to complete it.
-  **System/user intervention:** You prescribed the medicine and received some system advice or information in relation to allergies, abnormal lab results, dosing, route, patient age, therapeutic duplication, monitoring, contraindication or something other; Which required you to make a decision to modify the prescription, like adjusting doses or monitoring parameters, to mitigate risk without outright prevention.
-  **Prescribing prevented:** These are prescribing actions that should never occur, where it is clear cut with no additional prescriber decision point. The EP system blocks completion of the prescriptions entirely.
-  **Medicine not in system:** Where the medicine presented in the test is not available in your system, the question will be passed over. This will be classed as an invalid test. It will not affect the overall mitigation results which are calculated on the valid tests taken

If you select **System/user intervention**, you will be prompted to:

- Choose up to **two Clinical Decision Support (CDS) categories**.
- Tag the intervention as an **Alert** or **Advisory**.
- Optionally add **free-text notes** for additional context.

Please tell us about the system response by selecting **up to two** clinical decision support categories from the list below:

Category	Alert	Advisory	
Anti-Microbial Stewardship	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Drug age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Drug allergy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Drug brand	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Drug disease (contraindication)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Drug dose	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Drug, drug interaction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Drug duplication	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Drug frequency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Drug laboratory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Drug omission	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Drug route	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Pregnancy prevention	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Therapeutic duplication	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Please tell us about the system response

- You will be shown a summary of the scenario response recorded


Your responses to the scenario:

Response	Intervention
Category/Intervention type	Drug age
	Drug brand
Your notes	None entered

[Next scenario](#)

Note: the tool includes some ‘deception analysis’ which checks for false positives e.g. orders that should not have generated any warning or alerts in the hospital’s EP system.

Tips for Completing Prescribing Scenarios Efficiently

- Discontinue prescriptions** after each test to avoid conflicts.
- Review each scenario carefully** before prescribing.
- Use the progress bar** to track how far you have come.
- Accessing Tooltips**  throughout the tool that can be clicked on to provide the user with more information.
- Save and log out** if needed—your progress will be retained.
- Do not overthink CDS categories**—select what seems most appropriate.
- Once you have finished all the scenarios**, select **Continue to Configuration Questions** at the bottom of the screen.

Configuration Questions

After completing all prescribing scenarios, you will be prompted to answer **three final configuration questions**. These are simple **Yes/No** questions designed to assess basic safety features in your EP system setup.

What to Do

- Click **Continue to Configuration Questions** at the bottom of the scenarios page.
- Answer the three Yes/No questions.
- Click **Continue to Reports** to view your results.



Configuration Questions

Please answer the following questions about your ePrescribing System:

Can you open a new patient and prescribe a medicine whilst a previous patient is still open?

☐ No

Assessment Report

Once the assessment is complete, a detailed report will be generated. This includes:

Report Features

- **Summary table** of scenario outcomes:
 - Extreme risk
 - High risk
 - No risk (control)
 - Alert/advisory interventions

EPRaSE Assessment breakdown of results for 2025

Overview of prescribing test results

The total number of valid prescribing tests completed (excluding configuration questions) = 41

The total number of prescribing tests excluded (described as invalid test in the pie chart) due to medication not being available in the users EP system or the user skipped the question for another reason = 4

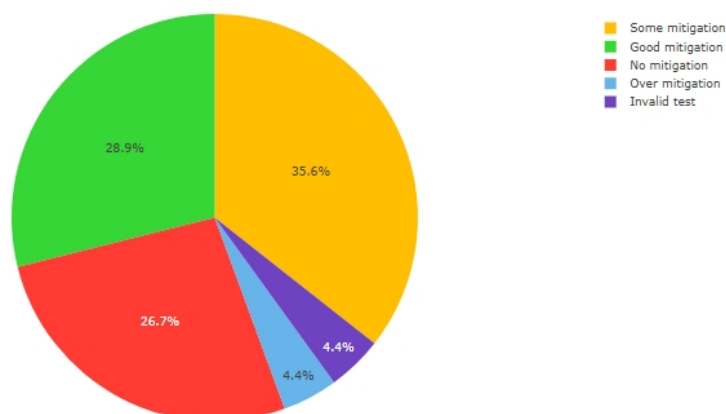
Table (1) below details the total number of prescribing tests completed, broken down by risk category. In addition, information is provided on the number and type of alerts record by your trust where an intervention was recorded.

Prescribing risk category	Outcome
Extreme risk	You completed 5 extreme risk scenarios. Out of these 1 were correctly mitigated.
High risk	You completed 34 high risk scenarios. Out of these 6 were correctly mitigated.
No risk (controls)	You completed 6 control scenarios. Out of these 6 were correctly mitigated.
Alert / advisory intervention types	Out of 41 valid prescribing tests completed, 9 were recorded as completed with system/user intervention. 5 of these responses were reported as alerts, 2 reported as advisory notifications and 2 reported as both. This would be considered as a high reliance on alerts. A high level of alerting can indicate an over-reliance on alerting and may lead to user 'alert fatigue'.

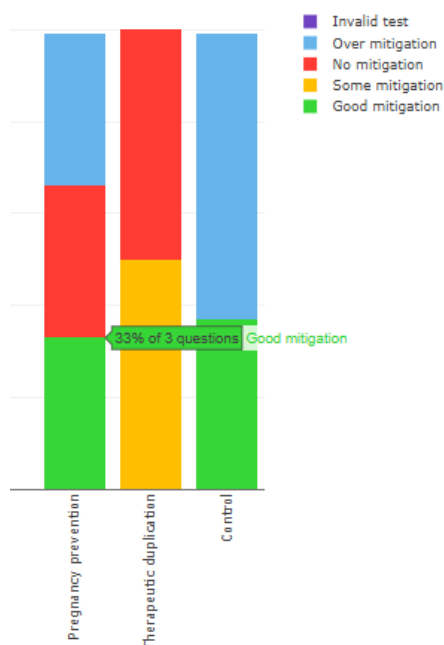
Table 1. Breakdown of prescribing tests taken

- **Mandatory scenario results** with guidance for improvement.
- **Configuration question results.**
- **Pie charts** and **stacked bar charts** showing mitigation scores by CDS category.

Summary of risk mitigation performance for your system across all the prescribing tests executed.



- **Interactive visuals** (hover to view details—only available in the live tool).



- **Print and save** options for PDF export.



What to Do

1. Review the report on-screen.
2. Scroll to the bottom and click the **Create printable PDF** tab to save a PDF copy.
3. Click **Assessment Complete** to finish.
4. You will be directed to exit the tool and be provided with a **user survey**, or you can choose to **Start a new assessment**.

Assessment Complete

Thank you for completing this assessment, you can now exit the tool where you can leave feedback via the user survey, or you can start a new assessment for any additional adult EP systems or start a paediatric assessment from the Assessment Selection page. Please select using the buttons below.

Exit tool

Start a new assessment

5. Reports can also be accessed via the homepage button where any additional paediatric or alternative adult EP system tests that have been completed can be reviewed.

You can view the final reports for the following assessments:

ePrescribing System	Patient Type	Assessment Status	Created on	Last Update	User	
Better Meds	Adult	Assessment complete	15-10-2025	16-10-2025 15:06	testaccount@nhs.net	Select

Disclaimer

The ePRaSE tool is not intended to provide users with guidance about its implementation of electronic prescribing systems. It is not intended, nor should it be considered by hospitals, other NHS agencies, patients, or any other users of the test results as a comprehensive audit or verification of the prescribing system.

The tool is offered on an as-is basis and the Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Newcastle University do not warrant or guarantee the accuracy or rigor of the protocols or implementation of the tool or its use by hospitals and testers.