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NHS England & NHS Improvement—Midlands (North) Controlled Drugs Newsletter

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This newsletter contains local and national CD information to support safe use and handling of controlled drugs. You can use the dedicated e-mail to contact us: england.northmidlandscd@nhs.net

Report ALL CD incidents, concerns and occurrence reports via the CD on-line reporting tool: www.cdreporting.co.uk

On-line Access to Medication

As patients become more aware of on-line GP services and pharmacies, a number of concerns have been raised locally and nationally about the services being provided.

If you have concerns regarding an on-line seller of human medicines please report the concern to the MHRA: <https://medicine-seller-register.mhra.gov.uk/report/>. The MHRA are working closely with the GPhC to address concerns raised regarding distance selling pharmacies. Concerns regarding prescribing can be reported to the GMC and concerns relating to pharmacies can be reported to the GPhC.

Duty to share Information/ Intelligence

We have received some enquires about what information can be shared, the information below may help provide the assurance/governance sought.

All organisations are required to share 'intelligence' relating to any person, including patients or staff members who are potentially mismanaging, controlled drugs. The duty to share information is articulated in law under;

1.1.1. The Controlled Drugs (Supervision of Management and Use) Regulations 2013 s20, requires intelligence sharing amongst responsible bodies.

1.1.2. The sharing of personal identifiable data is permitted under GDPR paragraph (2) of Article 5 and paragraph (c) of Article 6.

1.1.3. The sharing of personal identifiable data is permitted under the Data Protection Act 2018 Part 2 s2 (10) for the prevention or detection of unlawful acts.

Department of Health & Social Care update on amendments to the Controlled Drugs Regulations 2013

"The Department of Health and Social Care and the Scottish Government have undertaken a post-implementation review of the Controlled Drugs (Supervision of Management and Use) Regulations 2013 to consider their appropriateness and effectiveness, and to assess whether the regulatory measures remain fit for purpose. This review has now been completed and is going through the formal clearance processes. The Department and Scottish Government are also continuing preparations to lay legislation amending the Controlled Drugs (Supervision of Management and Use) Regulations 2013 before Parliament to ensure the Regulations remain in force beyond 31 March 2020.

The post-implementation review will be published online alongside the new amending legislation.



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Due to competing pressures of EU Exit and the December 2019 election, parliamentary time available for non-EU Exit related work has been limited. Given this, our top priority for the Regulations has been to ensure they do not cease to have effect on 31 March. Removing the statutory expiry clause is the focus of the legislation that is currently being prepared.

The additional amendments which were suggested during the consultation undertaken to inform the post-implementation review will be recorded in the post-implementation review as areas for future consideration. To ensure that a future review of the Regulations is undertaken we have included a statutory review clause in the new legislation. This requires that the Regulations are reviewed every 5 years." Sophie Rogers Pharmacy Development & Regulation



Public Health England (PHE) update

PHE has published an update from the latest national Intelligence group meeting. The update includes information on Drug Related Deaths, reducing injecting-related harms and barriers to care among marginalised groups, peer harm reduction, and news that PHE's (Report Illicit Drug Reactions) RIDR system has ceased to operate due to lack of use. You can find the update on-line at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drug-health-harms-national-intelligence/national-intelligence-network-on-drug-health-harms-briefing-december-2019>.

The Reporting Illicit Drug Reactions (RIDR) pilot site is closing completely on the **28th February 2020. In light of this please either update or remove any existing content including hyperlinks.** The site is to be archived under the UK Government Web Archive by the [National Archives](#).



Public Health
England

For further information please see the [RIDR website](#) for their statement.

Healthcare Professionals removing CDs from a patient's home

Patients' own controlled drugs are the property of the patient and, therefore, healthcare professionals must ensure that they are aware of their employers policy in regards to removing patients' own medication from their home.

It is the patients'/patients representative's

responsibility to return controlled medication that is no longer required to a community pharmacy/ dispensing practice for destruction. Only in an exceptional circumstance where an assessment has been made that there is a risk of harm should a healthcare professional remove these items.

Public Health England - Prescription Medicines Review: Recommendations

 Public Health England

Prescription Medicines Review: Recommendations

- Give NHS commissioners and doctors **better insight into prescribing data**
- Update **clinical guidance** on these five classes of medicines
- **Improving training** for clinicians to ensure their prescribing adheres to best practice
- New clinical guidance on **safe management** of dependence and withdrawal
- **Better information to patients** about the benefits and risks
- Doctors have **clear discussions with patients** including on social prescribing alternatives
- **Support made available locally** for patients with problems
- A **national helpline** for patients to be set up
- More **high-quality research** is undertaken



Public Health England have published the first ever evidence review of dependence and withdrawal problems associated with five commonly prescribed classes of medicines in England.

Five classes of medicines were included in the PHE review: Antidepressants, Opioid pain medications, Gabapentinoids, Benzodiazepines, and Z-drugs.

We include a copy of the recommendations here, and you can find the full report at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prescribed-medicines-review-report>

Website Link Round-up

If you have any difficulties accessing the weblinks shown in the articles in this newsletter, please use the long forms available here (Ctrl+click), or copy and paste the link into your web search area:

- MHRA – e-form - <https://medicine-seller-register.mhra.gov.uk/report/>
- National Archives - <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>
- RIDR website - <https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20191101130457/https://report-illicit-drug-reaction.phe.gov.uk/> (This is now an archived website)
- Public Health England - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prescribed-medicines-review-report>