

Appendix 24 – Practice Procedure for Patients Where Dependence on, or Diversion of, Controlled Drugs has been Identified

A **controlled** substance is generally a **drug** or chemical whose manufacture, possession, or use is regulated by the government because of the potential for abuse or addiction. Such **drugs** include those classified as narcotics, stimulants, depressants, hallucinogens, and cannabis.

A list of all controlled drugs can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/controlled-drugs-list--2>

For all controlled drugs which includes: benzodiazepine, codeine, dihydrocodeine or a product containing one of these drugs e.g. (Co-codamol, Kapake) in addition to the drugs in the link above:

1. If it has been identified that patients are either dependent on, or diverting, controlled drug prescriptions this must be recorded in the patient's medical record and a SNOMED code added to enable the Practice to monitor/audit.
2. The diversion of a controlled drug or prescription **must** be reported to the CD Accountable Officer via www.cdreporting.co.uk
3. If practices need to send out an alert regarding lost or stolen prescriptions, this can be done by sending an alert template to: ENGLAND.EnglandCASAlerts@nhs.net the alert template can be obtained from the CD accountable officer.
4. The Practice must review the patient's records when considering if it is appropriate to continue to prescribe controlled drugs for the patient. Practices may consider reviewing ordering patterns for immediate family and household members when considering patterns of behaviour.
5. The patient should be invited in for review and the appropriate steps taken.
6. Practices may issue a small supply of medication to cover the period until the patient attends.
7. At the review, Practices should review the appropriateness of the current prescription and steps that can be taken to support the patient such as:
 - Reducing and withdrawing medication including an enforced wean
 - Reducing script duration e.g. weekly or daily prescriptions
 - Discussion about future action should there be further issues
 - Referral to substance misuse services