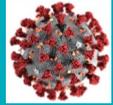


June 2020

NHS

NHS England & NHS Improvement - Midlands
Controlled Drugs Newsletter - [COVID 19 restoration and recovery edition](#)



This newsletter contains local and national CD information to support safe use and handling of controlled drugs

Midlands Controlled Drugs Accountable Officers

North Midlands

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West Midlands

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CD Incident Reporting

As we are now in the restoration and recovery phase of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic we are advising that the reporting of all controlled drug incidents can now recommence. If you experience an issue/concern relating to the prescribing, dispensing, storage or administration of controlled drugs these incidents must be reported to your CDAO. For primary care services and services without a CQC registered CDAO these must be reported to the CDAO at NHS England and NHS Improvement via the online reporting tool www.cdreporting.co.uk

Examples of Incidents or concerns include:

- Dispensing errors, Prescription / prescriber errors
- Wrong dosage prescribed, Medication label error
- Concerns about misappropriation of CDs by a health care professional / member of the public
- Record keeping errors or omissions, Stock balance discrepancies
- Theft or significant spillages of CDs
- Fraudulent attempts to obtain CDs
- CD storage issues
- Incorrect formulation dispensed
- Controlled drug administered incorrectly

There is also a useful poster which can be found on the online reporting tool **under the newsletter section** - <https://www.cdreporting.co.uk/newsletters/>

How to Request a Destruction

Whilst we are responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic, arrangements to provide an authorised witness to witness the destruction of obsolete Schedule 2 controlled drugs are being reviewed on a case by case basis. We are currently not able to arrange for an authorised person to attend any premises but the NHS England & NHS Improvement CDAO in your area may be able to approve the Superintendent Pharmacist or another suitably qualified person to be an authorised witness for a temporary period of TWO weeks only. Please submit your destruction requests as usual through www.cdreporting.co.uk you will then be contacted by a member of the Controlled Drugs Team to discuss your requirements.

NPA Guidance Returned Patient Medication

The NPA has produced guidance in relation to Covid-19 on dealing with patient returned medicines.

<https://www.npa.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/COVID-19-guidance-on-dealing-with-patient-returned-medicines-ENGLAND-May-2020.pdf>

Community pharmacists should ensure arrangements are in place to accept returned medicines.

GP Annual Declarations

North Midlands - This year's annual GP declaration is now available for completion on-line at www.cdreporting.co.uk. Please ensure your organisation has completed this important submission.

Central Midlands - We are planning to request the GP declarations in the middle of August for return by the middle of September.

West Midlands - We are planning to request the GP declarations in the middle of August for return by the middle of September.

Occurrence Reporting

During the initial COVID-19 response the requirement for submission of Occurrence Reports was stood down. All designated and non-designated bodies were asked to report any CD incidents that have a risk score of High or above directly onto the CD reporting tool.

Please can all organisations ensure that any CD incidents that occurred with a risk score of high or above for the quarter 4 period (1st January 2020 – 31st March 2020) are reported onto the online tool www.cdreporting.co.uk by the 30th June 2020.

As we are in the restoration and recovery phase of the pandemic response, occurrence report submissions will recommence. Quarter one occurrence report submissions from designated bodies for the period 1st April 2020 – 30th June 2020 will be due for submission by the 31st July 2020.

Dental Services

Resumption of Dental Services Letter - <https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/03/Urgent-dental-care-letter-28-May.pdf>

Dentist Annual Declarations

North Midlands - the deadline for submission is 13th July 2020. For any queries please contact: england.northmidlandscd@nhs.net

Central Midlands - the deadline for submissions is 23rd June 2020. For any queries please contact England.centralmidlands-cd@nhs.net

West Midlands - the deadline for submissions is 29th June 2020. For any queries please contact: AGCSU.controlledrugs@nhs.net

Private Controlled Drug Prescriptions and Requisitions

Community Pharmacies are reminded that Private Controlled Drugs prescriptions must be submitted to the NHS BSA for processing via the FP34PCD0108 Form. In order to submit you will require a private contractor PIN number; to apply for a PIN number please contact the relevant NHS England and NHS Improvement CD Team.

Private CD prescriptions for schedule two items must include a private PIN which is 6 digits long starting with a 6. The presence of this PIN number should be checked as part of the dispensing process. Completed CD requisition forms should also include a private CD PIN number when an item is being requisitioned by a private prescriber or dental practice etc. Contact the CDAO team for any queries regarding obtaining private prescribing PINs.

Over the Counter Sales of Codeine Products

We are aware that medication containing codeine is sometimes open to abuse by patients. However, during this current time small quantities of these products may be purchased by individuals to help manage the symptoms associated with COVID-19.

There is no simple or single method to distinguish a legitimate OTC purchase from a purchase for abuse and, therefore, we remind dispensing community pharmacies to follow the usual practices of verifying use, frequency, need, symptoms etc and decline any acute or repeat sales if there is suspicion of abuse. If you have any concerns or intelligence in relation to abuse of these items, please contact your Police Controlled Drugs Liaison Officer.

COVID-19: Reuse of Medicines in a Care Home or Hospice

The Department of Health, NHS England and NHS Improvement published in April 2020 a standard operating procedure on how to run a safe and effective medicines reuse scheme in a care home or hospice during the coronavirus outbreak. The standard operating procedure and supporting information can be accessed via <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-reuse-of-medicines-in-a-care-home-or-hospice>

RPS Guidance - Changing the Intervals of Instalments for Controlled Drugs During a Pandemic

Changes to controlled drug legislation give Ministers in Great Britain and the Department of Health in Northern Ireland the option to switch on additional flexibilities during a pandemic to allow pharmacists to change the intervals of instalments without a new prescription, following agreement with the prescriber or their appointed representative.

These are contingency changes which will only be 'activated' by an announcement from a Secretary of State which specifies:

- When the change comes into effect
- How long the change is effective for
- The geographical area this change applies to. This could be national, regional or specific to a local area.

Action should be taken only in accordance with national operational guidance which will be issued in each of the home countries before the enabling changes are needed. For further information please go to <https://www.rpharms.com/resources/pharmacy-guides/controlled-drugs-contingency-legislation/varying-instalment-prescriptions>

