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PRESCRIBING CONTROLLED DRUGS FOR TEMPORARY PATIENTS

Recently our CDAO office has received an increasing number of requests to issue alerts for incidents where patients have been travelling to different practices, often across the country, to register as temporary patients and obtain prescriptions for controlled drugs.

The aim of this newsletter is to *remind* prescribers of the considerations that they should give when presented with such patients.

Not all temporary patients are there to obtain drugs by deception however there will be some that may try to do so. Therefore we recommend that prescribers ensure that they are only providing controlled drugs to those patients who they can verify as being clinically appropriate.

Some examples of information prescribers should seek to obtain prior to issuing supplies are listed as follows:

- Formal identification, passport, driving licence
- Formal letters from healthcare organisations indicating specific treatments and or medication
- Request details of their current GP and seek clarification about medications and treatment
- Access to their medical records to obtain their list of current medication
- Access to the patient's Summary Care Record

Below is the guidance taken from the GMC website. Prescribing Guidance: Sharing information with colleagues (section 33).

If a patient has not been referred to you by their general practitioner, you should also:

a. Consider whether the information you have is sufficient and reliable enough to enable you to prescribe safely; for example, whether:

- i) You have access to their medical records or other reliable information about the patient's health and other treatments they are receiving.
- ii) You can verify other important information by examination or testing

b. Ask for the patient's consent to contact their general practitioner if you need more information or confirmation of the information you have before prescribing. If the patient objects, you should explain that you cannot prescribe for them and what their options are.

This can be accessed by clicking the link below: <http://www.gmc-uk.org/mobile/14320> Section 33

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