

20.11.2019

Dear Colleague

Amendments to Misuse of Drugs Legislation

The Department of Health has notified contractors and pharmacies in respect of amendments to Misuse of Drugs legislation which came into operation on 15th November 2019.

The attached letter containing links to the relevant legislation can also be found at the following link:

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/mdr-letter-november2019.pdf>.

The main issues of relevance to contractors and pharmacists are listed below:

- (a) Physiotherapist Independent Prescribers and Podiatrist Independent Prescribers are given the authority to prescribe a limited range of controlled drugs. Full details can be found in Regulations 5 and 6 contained within this link <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2019/208/contents/made>
- (b) The use of a requisition form approved by the Department of Health is now mandatory for certain individuals who wish to obtain Schedule 2 or 3 Controlled Drugs (CDs). **A standardised form (CDRF1)**, associated guidance and an example of a completed form is available at the following links:

<http://www.medicinesgovernance.hscni.net/primary-care/controlled-drugs/private-cds/>

This form **must** be used to order (requisition) S2 and 3 CD stock by:

- Individual practitioners e.g. doctors, dentists and vets for **non-Health Service purposes (ie for private use). The HS21S should continue to be used for obtaining S2 and 3 CD stock by GPs for Health Service purposes.**
- Private hospitals/clinics where there is no on-site pharmacy
- Private paramedics operating outside NIAS engagement and who possess the appropriate licence issued by the Department of Health
- Others as required by legislation e.g. owner or master of a ship, or persons in charge of a laboratory (Note: Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) and Hospices are exempted from using this form and should use NIAS and hospice designated forms).

This form should also be used when transferring CDs between pharmacies.

Community pharmacists: Completed CDRF1 forms **with the exception of veterinary requisitions and those relating to inter-pharmacy stock transfers** must be submitted to the Business Services Organisation (BSO) as part of the standard monthly submissions. Section O of the HS30 must be completed accordingly.

Note: BSO does not reimburse against this form – the purpose of submission is for monitoring purposes only.

Wholesalers: CDRF1s do not need to be submitted to BSO as CD supplies by wholesalers are monitored using other means.

Further guidance will be provided by HSCB and can also be found on the reverse of the CDRF1 form.

- (c) In addition to the usual veterinary prescription requirements for S2 and 3 CDs, it will now be mandatory for the veterinary surgeon or veterinary practitioner issuing the prescription to include their Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons registration number on the prescription.

Additional guidance in relation to controlled drugs matters is available at <http://www.medicinesgovernance.hscni.net/primary-care/controlled-drugs/> and <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/letters-and-advice-regulation-medicines>

- (d) The amendments also alter the generic definition of a range of synthetic cannabinoids permanently controlled under Misuse of Drugs legislation. These amendments will primarily affect pharmaceutical research.

Please ensure that this information is brought to the attention of the pharmacist(s) working with you. Any queries should be directed to: Canice Ward, Head of Medicines Regulatory Group, Room D 4.6, Castle Buildings Upper Newtownards Road Belfast, BT4 3SQ Tel: (028) 9052 3703

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely

Mike

Sent on behalf of Prof Mike Mawhinney | Head of Regulatory Affairs

One ATTACHMENT(S) INCLUDED IN THIS EMAIL

(Please note that our system may append logos and signatures at the foot of this email as attachments)



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