

21/03/2019
Dear Contractor

RE M I N D E R

- **Pregabalin and Gabapentin**

From 1st April 2019, amendments to the Misuse of Drugs (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2002 and to the Misuse of Drugs (Safe Custody) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 1973 come into force making **Pregabalin** and **Gabapentin** schedule 3 controlled drugs (CDs).

This follows a Government consultation subsequent to recommendations from the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs for additional safeguards to be put in place because of concerns around the misuse of these drugs.

Pharmacists are reminded that they **will not be** required to keep pregabalin and gabapentin in the controlled drug cabinet/safe. This follows representations from CPNI and others that the usual storage arrangements for schedule 3 CDs would not be practical considering the significant number of prescriptions dispensed for these drugs.

However, pregabalin and gabapentin **will be** subject to all other usual controls applied to schedule 3 CDs by the Misuse of Drugs Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2002, **including prescription writing requirements.**

For more information [click here](#)

- **Controlled Drugs Declarations and Self-assessments**

You were notified in February by the Department of Health that your annual declaration and self-assessment form in relation to the management of controlled drugs **must be completed by 31 March 2019** - a legal requirement under The Controlled Drugs (Supervision of Management and Use) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009.

The completed form is to be retained in the front of the controlled drug register and will become part of the routine records which will be examined by the Department's Pharmacy Inspectors during their visits - **(do not send the completed form to the Department).**

A copy of this form can be found on the Department of Health's website at the following link: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/letters-and-advice-regulation-medicines>

Kind Regards,



SENT FOR AND BEHALF OF GERARD GREENE | Chief Executive

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