

Controlled Drugs Newsletter

NHS England Central Midlands

Controlled Drugs Accountable Officer / Head of Pharmacy

Bhavisha Pattani

B.pattani@nhs.net
0113 824 8257

Controlled Drugs Support Team

Tina Goudie

Pharmacy Programme Manager (Fosse House)
Tinagoudie@nhs.net
0113 824 9602

Amit Dawda

Pharmacy Programme Manager (Fosse House)
Amit.dawda@nhs.net
0113 8249596

Aabida Patel

Graduate Management Trainee (Medical Directorate Fosse House)
aabida_patel@nhs.net
0113 824 8792

Gillian Castanha

Pharmaceutical Prescribing Technician (Fosse House)
g.castanha@nhs.net
0113 8070457

Sarah James

Medicines Governance pharmacy Technician (Fosse House)
sarah.james13@nhs.net
0113 8247451

Kay Jones

Administrator (Fosse House)
Kay.jones10@nhs.net
0113 824 9614

Tania Faria

LPN Administrator (Fosse House)
Tania.faria@nhs.net
0113 824 8678

Welcome to the NHS England Central Midlands Controlled Drugs Newsletter.

Safer delivery of medication

The increase in requests from patients and their families for pharmacies to offer a secure medication delivery service to patients' homes, has prompted the attention of the Community Pharmacy Patient Safety Group. The Patient Safety Group felt that it was an important area to focus on for improvement.

The Community Pharmacy Patient Safety Group has provided a discussion paper offering insight into key issues arising from the Medicines Delivery process and potential ways to tackle these issues. The purpose of the paper is not to be guidance or best practice but to assist and stimulate Community Pharmacies into discussing and evaluating the safety of their medicines delivery service.

The following summarises key points for discussion amongst colleagues, to help improve delivery services and to provide better support for delivery drivers:

- ◆ Patient need for a delivery service should be established rather than presumed
- ◆ There is a requirement to obtain express permission from the patient to deliver medication to their home
- ◆ The Responsible Pharmacist (RP) should be involved in the set-up and maintenance of the medicine delivery service. RP responsible to determine if face-to-face contact with patient is needed. RP to ensure SOPs are in place and periodically review the suitability of continuing delivery of medications.
- ◆ The patient must be capable of positively identifying themselves (confirming name and address) on every delivery. In cases where patient is unable to do so, a safe alternative solution should be found.
- ◆ For the safety of patients, to prevent degradation and to confirm patient identity, Community Pharmacies **should not** place medication in hidden locations, nor should safe havens (i.e. lockable box outside patient's property) be used to deliver medication.
- ◆ Key safe system **may** be used with correct consent, SOPs and support for delivery drivers, providing patients are able to identify themselves consistently
- ◆ If delivering to an alternative address (where the driver does not need to get back in the van) the patient has to have consented for the named individual to receive the delivery

For a more in-depth discussion please read the 'Safer delivery of medicines' discussions paper using the following link: <https://pharmacysafety.org/2017/05/24/safer-delivery-of-medicines/>

Safe storage of CD's whilst construction is taking placeThe Issue

CDs have been stolen from a number of premises during construction work and by a person allegedly undertaking a building work survey.

Preventative measures

- ◆ When construction is planned near areas where CDs are stored or dispensed, security measures should be reviewed to ensure the risk of diversion is minimised.
- ◆ Be vigilant of construction workers accessing areas where medication is stored
- ◆ Take extra security measures if CCTV has to be turned off during construction work
- ◆ If construction work is carried out during the night consider relocation of medication to another secure area.
- ◆ Ensure all staff know how to report damage to premises and ensure repairs are dealt with in an appropriate timescale.

Help and advice can be sort from the local CD liaison officer.

Prescribing to friends and family: Ensuring vigilance on receiving prescription

Good Medical Practice (GMP) guidance regarding 'Prescribing and managing medicines and devices' (2013) states:

'Wherever possible you must avoid prescribing for yourself or anyone with whom you have a close personal relationship'.

Due to the dangers associated with controlled medicines, GMP (2013) guidance has also stated that the only exceptions to the above rule are as follows:

*'You must not prescribe a controlled medicine for yourself or someone close to you unless:
no other person with the legal right to prescribe is available to assess and prescribe without a delay which would put your, or the patient's, life or health at risk or cause unacceptable pain or distress, and
the treatment is immediately necessary to:*

- i. save a life*
- ii. avoid serious deterioration in health*
- iii. alleviate otherwise uncontrollable pain or distress.'*

In a situation where it is **absolutely necessary** for you to prescribe for yourself or someone close to you, Good Medical Practice guidance has stated that you must:

- 'a. Make a clear record at the same time or as soon as possible afterwards. The record should include your relationship to the patient (where relevant) and the reason it was necessary for you to prescribe.*
- b. Tell your own or the patient's general practitioner what medicines you have prescribed and any other information necessary for continuing care, unless (in the case of prescribing for somebody close to you) they object.'*

Guidance for Pharmacies on receiving private prescriptions:

- ◆ Ensure the script includes the address of the prescriber, date the prescription was issued, the prescriber's professional group (Doctor, Dentist etc), name and address of the patient (and age if under 12 years old)
- ◆ All private prescriptions should include a six digit private CD code on a FP10PCD prescription form. Pharmacies should not dispense Schedule 2 or 3 CD's without a private CD code.
- ◆ If unsure, use professional body searches (GMC etc.) to check the prescribing doctor is a registered practising doctor
- ◆ Maintain vigilance and question private prescriptions where there may seem to be a relationship between prescriber and patient.

Reminder

Concerns raised must be reported to the CD Accountable Officer. Concerns may include patients potentially misusing or abusing drugs, prescribing concerns, dispensing concerns etc.

CD Accountable Officer for NHS England (Central Midlands): Bhavisha Pattani
England.centralmidlands-cd@nhs.net

To report all CD incidents, or to request a CD destruction visit, please use the CD online reporting tool available at www.cdreporting.co.uk