



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

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AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÄNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin
an Fowk Siccar**

To: Trust Pharmacy Managers
Directors of Nursing (Trusts)
Directors of Primary Care Boards
NICPPET
Medical Information Service (Royal)
RQIA, *FAO Relevant Organisations and Private/
Independent Providers of Service*

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Dear Colleague

AMENDMENTS TO THE MISUSE OF DRUGS REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2002

A number of amendments to the Misuse of Drugs Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2002 are being introduced with effect from the dates specified below. This letter is to inform you of the details of these changes.

1. Senior Registered Nurse

With effect from **20 August 2007**, the definition “sister or acting sister” has been replaced in the Misuse of Drugs Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2002 by the definition “senior registered nurse or acting senior registered nurse”.

2. Operating Department Practitioners

With effect from **20 August 2007**, an Operating Department Practitioner practising in a hospital, may possess and supply or offer to supply, any controlled drug specified in Schedules 2, 3, 4 or 5 for the purposes of administration to a patient in a ward, theatre or other department in that hospital, in accordance with the directions of a doctor, dentist, supplementary prescriber acting under and in accordance with the terms of a clinical management plan or a nurse independent prescriber prescribing under Regulation 6B of the Misuse of Drugs Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2002.

3. Nursing Homes

With effect from **20 August 2007**, nursing homes, as defined by the Health and Personal Social Services (Quality, Improvement and Regulation) (Northern Ireland) Order 2003, will be subject to the Misuse of Drugs (Safe Custody) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 1973.

This will mean that all nursing homes (as defined) must store all Schedule 2 & 3 controlled drugs, which are subject to the Regulations, in accordance with the Regulations.

4. Regulations

With effect from **1 January 2008**, on receipt of a requisition (other than a veterinary requisition) in relation to a controlled drug other than a drug specified in Schedule 4 or 5, the supplier shall –

- a. Mark on the requisition (in ink or otherwise indelibly) his name and address (eg with the pharmacy stamp); and
- b. Continue to submit requisitions presented on HS21S forms to the Central Services Agency as is current practice. All other requisitions should be retained within the pharmacy in a similar manner to PCD1 forms and other private prescriptions.

This regulation does not apply where the supplier is a wholesale dealer or is a person responsible for the dispensing and supply of medicines at a hospital or care home.

5. Midazolam

With effect from **1 January 2008**, **midazolam** will move from Schedule 4 to **Schedule 3** of the Misuse of Drugs Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2002.

This will mean that midazolam will be subject to the following requirements:

- a. Prescription requirements (words and figures etc)
- b. Requisition necessary for supply
- c. No emergency supplies
- d. Date of supply marked on prescription
- e. Address of the prescriber must be within the UK
- f. Validity of prescription 28 days (as with all Schedule 2, 3 and 4)
- g. Invoices kept for 2 years
- h. Import/Export licence required
- i. Supply against a patient group direction is permitted.

Midazolam **will not** be subject to Safe Custody Requirements.

6. Controlled Drugs Registers

With effect from **1 February 2008**, entries in the controlled drugs register must be recorded under the following headings:

- a. In respect of entries made for drugs obtained –
 - i. Date supply received

- ii. Name and address from whom received
 - iii. Quantity received
- b. In respect of entries made for drugs supplied –
- i. Date supplied
 - ii. Name/address of person or firm supplied
 - iii. Details of authority to possess – prescriber or licence holder’s details
 - iv. Quantity supplied
 - v. Role of person collecting Schedule 2 controlled drug (patient/patient’s representative/healthcare professional) and if a healthcare professional, name and address. If the healthcare professional is unknown to the pharmacist proof of identification must be seen and recorded as per 6(b)(vii) (see below)
 - vi. Was proof of identity requested of patient/patient’s representative? (Yes/No) (see appendix 1)
 - vii. Was proof of identity of person collecting provided? (Yes/No)
- c. In a separate register or a separate part of the register used for each class of drug, a separate page shall be used in respect of each strength and form of that drug and the head of each such page shall specify the class of drug, its form and its strength.
- d. Entries in respect of drugs obtained and drugs supplied may be made on the same page or separate pages of the register. Entries on the same page will facilitate the maintenance of “running balances”.

Details of these changes may be found by accessing the Regulations on the Office of Public Sector Information at www.opsi.gov.uk.

If you require any further information on these matters please contact Joe Gault (joe.gault@dhsspsni.gov.uk Tel: 028 90520678), Tony Wallace (Anthony.wallace@dhsspsni.gov.uk Tel: 028 90528688) or Anne Fox (anne.fox@dhsspsni.gov.uk Tel: 028 90528688).

Yours sincerely



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