



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**

From: **Head of Inspection and Investigation**
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Dear Pharmacist

1. The legal requirements pertaining to the supply of a Prescription Only Medicine (POM) in an emergency (an 'emergency supply') are clearly described within Article 8 of The Prescription Only Medicines (Human Use) Order 1997 (SI 1997/1830) (The POM Order). Full details may be found in the RPSGB Law and Ethics Bulletin of 19 August 2006, available on the RPSGB website, and in our own Society's *Ethics and Practice*.
2. I wrote in June alerting you to the recent amendments to the POM Order which among other matters, permit an emergency supply of some medicines to be made for up to 30 days treatment. Other amendments mentioned in my letter, some of which also related to emergency supply of POMs, were specific to a pandemic situation.
3. I write to remind all pharmacists that an emergency supply is a private transaction for which the pharmacist may levy a charge. The 'lending' of medicines to patients has no legal basis and supplies other than against a prescription should be in accordance with legal provisions and with best practice. Pharmacists making such loans leave themselves vulnerable to potential legal or professional proceedings.

Yours sincerely

DR M MAWHINNEY
Head of Inspection and Investigation
Pharmaceutical Advice and Services