

Regulation 15

Form of prescriptions

15.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this regulation, a person shall not issue a prescription containing a controlled drug other than a drug specified in Schedule 4 or 5 or temazepam unless the prescription complies with the following requirements, that is to say, it shall –

- (a) be written so as to be indelible, be dated and be signed by the person issuing it with his usual signature;
 - (aa) except in the case of a health prescription or a veterinary prescription, be written on a prescription form provided by a Primary Care Trust or equivalent body for the purposes of private prescribing;
 - (ab) except in the case of a health prescription or a veterinary prescription, specify the prescriber identification number of the person issuing it;
 - (c) except in the case of a health prescription, specify the address of the person issuing it;
 - (d) if issued by a dentist, have the words "for dental treatment only" written on it and, if issued by a veterinary surgeon or a veterinary practitioner, have a declaration written on it that the controlled drug is prescribed for an animal or herd under his care;
 - (e) specify the name and address of the person for whose treatment it is issued or, if it is issued by a veterinary surgeon or veterinary practitioner, of the person to whom the controlled drug prescribed is to be delivered;
 - (f) specify the dose to be taken and –
 - (i) in the case of a prescription containing a controlled drug which is a preparation, the form and, where appropriate, the strength of the preparation, and either the total quantity (in both words and figures) of the preparation or the number (in both words and figures) of dosage units, as appropriate, to be supplied;
 - (ii) in any other case, the total quantity (in both words and figures) of the controlled drug to be supplied;
 - (g) in the case of a prescription for a total quantity intended to be supplied by instalments, contain a direction specifying the amount of the instalments of the total amount which may be supplied and the intervals to be observed when supplying.
- (1A) A person shall not issue a prescription other than a health prescription or a veterinary prescription containing temazepam unless it is written on a prescription form provided by a Primary Care Trust or equivalent body for the purposes of private prescribing and it specifies the prescriber identification number and the address of the person issuing it.
- (1B) Nothing in this regulation prevents the issue of a prescription, other than a health prescription, which is not written on a prescription form, provided by a Primary Care Trust or equivalent body for the purposes of private prescribing, containing a controlled

drug other than a drug specified in Schedule 4 or 5, where the person issuing the prescription believes on reasonable grounds that the drug will be supplied by a pharmacist in a hospital.

- (2) In the case of a prescription issued for the treatment of a patient in a hospital or nursing home, it shall be a sufficient compliance with paragraph (1)(e) if the prescription is written on the patient's bed card or case sheet.

Provisions as to supply on prescription

16. — (1) subject to paragraph 5, a person shall not supply a controlled drug other than a drug specified in Schedule 4 or 5 on a prescription –

(a) subject to paragraphs (1A) and (1C), unless the prescription complies with the provisions of regulation 15;

(b) unless the address specified in the prescription as the address of the person issuing it is an address within the United Kingdom;

(c) unless he either is acquainted with the signature of the person by whom it purports to be issued and has no reason to suppose that it is not genuine, or has taken reasonably sufficient steps to satisfy himself that it is genuine;

(d) before the appropriate date.

(e) subject to paragraph (3), later than twenty eight days after the appropriate date.

(1A) A pharmacist may supply a controlled drug other than a drug specified in Schedule 4 or 5 or temazepam if the prescription contains minor typographical errors or spelling mistakes or if it does not comply with the provisions of regulation 15 in the way specified in paragraph (1B), provided that .—

(a) having exercised all due diligence, he is satisfied on reasonable grounds that the prescription is genuine;

(b) having exercised all due diligence, he is satisfied on reasonable grounds that he is supplying the drug in accordance with the intention of the person issuing the prescription;

(c) he amends the prescription in ink or otherwise indelibly to correct the minor typographical errors or spelling mistakes or so that the prescription complies with the requirements of regulation 15 as the case may be; and

(d) he marks the prescription so that the amendment he has made under subparagraph (c) is attributable to him.

(1B) The way specified in paragraph (1A) is that, in relation to regulation 15(1)(f), the total quantity of the preparation or of the controlled drug or the number of dosage units as the case may be specified in either words or figures but not both.

(1C) A pharmacist may supply a controlled drug or drug specified in Schedule 4 or 5 on a prescription other than a health prescription in a hospital if it does not comply with regulation 15 in the ways specified in paragraph (1D).

(1D) The ways specified in paragraph (1C) are —

- (a) the prescription is not written on a prescription form provided by a Primary Care Trust or equivalent body for the purpose of private prescribing;
- (b) the prescription does not specify the prescriber identification number of the person issuing it.

(2) Subject to paragraph (3), a person supplying on prescription a controlled drug other than a drug specified in Schedule 4 or 5 shall, at the time of the supply, mark on the prescription the date on which the drug is supplied and, if it is a veterinary prescription, shall retain the prescription on the premises from which the drug was supplied.

(3) In the case of a prescription containing a controlled drug other than a drug specified in Schedule 4 or 5, which contains a direction that specified instalments of the total amount may be supplied at stated intervals, the person supplying the drug shall not do so otherwise than in accordance with that direction and —

- (a) paragraph (1) shall have effect as if for the requirement contained in subparagraph (e) thereof there were substituted a requirement that the occasion on which the first instalment is supplied shall not be later than twenty eight days after the appropriate date;
- (b) paragraph (2) shall have effect as if for the words "at the time of the supply" there were substituted the words "on each occasion on which an instalment is supplied".

(4) A person shall not supply a controlled drug specified in Schedule 4 on a prescription later than twenty eight days after the appropriate date.

(5) A person who is asked to supply on prescription a controlled drug specified in Schedule 2 must first ascertain whether the person collecting the drug is the patient, the patient's representative or a health care professional acting in his professional capacity on behalf of the patient; and

(a) where the person is the patient or patient's representative, he may —

- (i) request evidence of that person's identity; and
- (ii) refuse to supply the drug if he is not satisfied as to the identity of that person;

(b) where that person is a health care professional acting in his professional capacity on behalf of the patient, he —

- (i) must obtain that person's name and address;

- (ii) must, unless he is acquainted with that person, request evidence of that person's identity; but
- (iii) may supply the drug even if he is not satisfied as to the identity of that person.

(6) In this regulation—

“appropriate date” means the later of the date on which it was signed by the person issuing it or the date indicated by him as being the date before which it shall not be supplied;

“health care professional” has the same meaning as in Article 15C of the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972;

“patient” means the person named in the prescription as the person to whom the drug is to be supplied;

“patient's representative” means a person sent by or on behalf of the patient (other than a health care representative acting in his professional capacity).

Exemption for certain prescriptions

17. Nothing in regulations 15 and 16 shall have effect in relation to a prescription issued for the purposes of a scheme for testing the quality or amount of the drugs, preparations and appliances supplied under the National Health Service Act 1977 or the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978 and the regulations made thereunder or to any prescriptions issued for the purposes of the Medicines Act 1968 to a sampling officer within the meaning of that Act.