



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

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AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin
an Fowk Siccar**

To: All GPs and Locum GPs
All Community Pharmacists

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Dear Colleague

PRESCRIBING OF SCHEDULE 2 AND 3 CONTROLLED DRUGS IN THE REPEAT DISPENSING SCHEME

A review of the issues surrounding the Repeat Dispensing of Schedule 2 and 3 Controlled Drugs has been undertaken.

As you will be aware, within the GMS Contracts Regulations a “repeatable prescription” means a prescription contained in a form provided by the Agency and issued to a prescriber to enable a person to obtain pharmaceutical services and which –

- (a) is generated by a computer but signed by a prescriber, and
- (b) indicates that the drugs, medicines or appliances ordered on that form may be provided more than once and specifies the number of occasions on which they may be provided.”

Also within the GMS Contracts Regulations “repeat dispensing services” means pharmaceutical services which involve the provision of drugs, medicines or appliances by a chemist in accordance with a repeatable prescription.”

This Department agrees with guidance from the Home Office that the Repeat Dispensing of Schedule 2 and 3 Controlled Drugs is **not** allowed under the Regulations. This is confirmed by Clause 293 of the GMS Contract which prohibits “repeatable prescriptions” for Schedule 2 and 3 Controlled Drugs.

Therefore Pharmacists and GPs are reminded that the supply of Schedule 3 and 3 Controlled Drugs as part of a Repeat Dispensing scheme is **prohibited**.

This direction is in line with the 'RPSGB Fact Sheet on Controlled Drugs' which clearly states that Schedule 3 and 3 Controlled Drugs cannot be included in the NHS Repeat Dispensing scheme currently operating in England and Wales.

Please refer to attached 'Repeat Dispensing : Schedule 3 and 3 Controlled Drugs Guidance' for further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Mawhinney', with a stylized flourish at the end.

DR M MAWHINNEY
Head of Inspection and Investigation



Repeat Dispensing

Schedule 2 and 3 Controlled Drugs Guidance

DHSSPS have carried out a review of the issues surrounding the Repeat Dispensing of Schedule 2 and 3 Controlled Drugs, including a review of the legislation and regulations for controlled drug prescribing. Given that all prescriptions for Schedule 2 and 3 Controlled Drugs must be issued in line with the Misuse of Drugs Regulations and with GMS Contracts Regulations, they have advised that all Schedule 2 and 3 Controlled Drugs, including Temazepam and Phenobarbital, cannot be prescribed on, or dispensed against, a Repeatable Prescription (RA).

Therefore, Repeat Dispensing patients cannot be prescribed or dispensed **any** Schedule 2 or 3 Controlled Drugs using the Repeat Dispensing process.

Please Note:

- GP practices must issue standard HS21 prescription forms for all Schedule 2 and 3 Controlled Drugs in line with current Misuse of Drugs Regulations and GMS Contracts Regulations
- Community pharmacists are no longer permitted to dispense Schedule 2 and 3 Controlled Drugs including temazepam and Phenobarbital against Repeatable Prescriptions (RA)
- There are no professional issues for GPs or Community Pharmacists with regard to Repeatable Prescriptions (RA) that have already been written or dispensed for Schedule 2 or 3 Controlled Drugs.

Advice for New Repeat Dispensing Patients

GP Practices	Community Pharmacists
Practices must not issue Repeatable Prescriptions (RA) for any Schedule 2 or 3 Controlled Drugs including temazepam and Phenobarbital	Community Pharmacists must not dispense any Repeatable Prescriptions (RA) for any Schedule 2 or 3 Controlled Drugs including temazepam and Phenobarbital

Advice for Existing Repeat Dispensing Patients

GP Practices	Community Pharmacists
Practices should search for existing patients who have been prescribed Schedule 2 and 3 Controlled Drugs under the Repeat Dispensing Scheme eg <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - patients on temazepam or Phenobarbital ie specific drug search - patients on Repeat Dispensing ie search by Repeat Dispensing Read Code - contact and advise the community pharmacist who is providing a Repeat Dispensing service for the patient 	<p>If any Schedule 2 or 3 Controlled Drugs including temazepam or Phenobarbital is listed on existing Batch Issues (RD) the pharmacist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - should contact the prescriber to confirm that the remaining Batch Issues will not be dispensed and refer the patient back to the prescriber - must endorse the controlled drug 'ND' on both the Repeatable Prescription (RA) and all remaining Batch Issues (RD) - must not claim a non-dispensing intervention fee <p>If you have to contact the GP practice to request a standard HS21 prescription form for the Controlled Drug, you can claim a pharmacist intervention fee, by endorsing one Batch Issue only 97001/1</p>

For Further Information Contact Your Board Prescribing Team