

Pharmacists
Pre-registration Pharmacy Graduates

From: **Head of Inspection and Investigation**
Dr Michael Mawhinney TD LLM FPS
Room D4.6, Castle Buildings
Upper Newtownards Road
Belfast, BT4 3SQ
Tel: (028) 9052 3348/Fax: (028) 9052 2335
E-Mail: michael.mawhinney@dhsspsni.gov.uk

29 June 2006

Dear Colleague

PRESCRIPTION FORM PCD1

As you are aware, a standard prescription form (PCD1) has been introduced to enable compliance with the amendment to Regulation 15 of the Misuse of Drugs (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2002 which becomes effective on 7th July 2006.

- 1 From 7th July all private prescriptions for Schedule 2 & 3 controlled drugs must be written on form PCD1.**
- 2 Facsimiles of the front and back of form PCD1 are appended to this letter.**
- 3 Private prescriptions for Schedule 2 & 3 controlled drugs written after 7 July 2006 will not be valid, and cannot be dispensed, unless they are written on form PCD1. The exception to this may be a private prescription from Great Britain presented on the form issued for the purpose by an appropriate body there¹. (As with all prescriptions for controlled drugs, if the supplier is not acquainted with the prescriber's signature, reasonably sufficient steps should be taken to ascertain that it is genuine.)**

NB – Private Prescriptions for Schedule 2 and 3 controlled drugs written before 7 July 2006 will be valid for 13 weeks after the date specified on the prescription and may be dispensed up to that date.

¹ Primary Care Trust in England, Local Health Board in Wales, Health Board in Scotland.

- 4 The PCD1 form should be treated in the same manner as other private prescriptions (enter in the prescription book, endorse appropriately and retain on the premises.) An entry must also be made in the controlled drugs register when the PCD1 is for a S2 controlled drug.**
- 5 As previously indicated, it is expected that there will be relatively low usage of form PCD1 in line with current private prescribing of Schedule 2 & 3 controlled drugs.**

If you have any queries on these matters please contact either Joe Gault on 028 9052 0768 Email joe.gault@dhsspsni.gov.uk or Tony Wallace on 028 9052 8688 Email anthony.wallace@dhsspsni.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully

DR M MAWHINNEY
Head of Inspection and Investigation