

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

**PRIVATE CONTROLLED DRUGS PRESCRIPTIONS AND OTHER CHANGES TO THE
PRESCRIBING AND DISPENSING OF CONTROLLED DRUGS**

Attached is a copy of interim guidance issued by the Department of Health in London on the safer management of controlled drugs, with particular reference to private prescriptions for controlled drugs in England.

This document reflects the changes envisaged in Safer Management of Controlled Drugs, the Government's response to the Fourth Report of the Shipman Inquiry. These changes were further consulted on during the public consultation on proposed changes to Misuse of Drugs legislation in 2005, of which you or your organisation was a part.

Whilst this document refers specifically to England, similar changes resulting from the changes to the Misuse of Drugs Regulations will be implemented across the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The implementation process as it will apply to Northern Ireland is currently being discussed.

This letter is to raise your awareness to the fact that such changes will occur. You will be notified of the details as they will affect Northern Ireland prior to implementation.

The Pharmaceutical Journal, 25th March 2006, carried an article detailing changes which have occurred to the Misuse of Drugs Regulations, and changes which are anticipated to occur in 2006 (www.pjonline.com). Similar information is available in the Chemist and Druggist magazine for 13th March 2006 (dotpharmacy.com/180306.html).

If you have any further queries please contact either Michelle McCorry on 028 9052 3279 or Joe Gault on 028 9052 0768.

Yours faithfully

DR M MAWHINNEY
Head of Inspection and Investigation