



Department of

Health, Social Services and Public Safety

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÄNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin
an Fowk Siccar**

From: Dr Michael Mawhinney TD LLM FPS
Castle Buildings
Upper Newtownards Road
Belfast, BT4 3SQ
Tel: (028) 9052 3348/Fax: (028) 9052 2335

E-Mail: Michael.mawhinney@dhsspsni.gov.uk

To all Community Pharmacists
Pre Registration students
Community Pharmacies

Dear Colleague

5 August 2008

RE: REGISTRATION OF PRESCRIBERS

I am writing to remind you of the obligations placed on pharmacists to ensure that a prescriber is both registered with an appropriate professional body, and does not have any restrictions placed on their prescribing.

- The Medicines Act requires that prescription only medicines may be sold or supplied only in accordance with a prescription given by an appropriate prescriber. An appropriate prescriber is most commonly a doctor or dentist, but also includes Nurse Independent Prescribers, Pharmacist Independent Prescribers and Supplementary Prescribers.
- The registration of an individual prescriber can be verified with the appropriate professional body (such as the GMC), which will also confirm any restrictions which may have been placed on the individual. The professional body may be contacted via the telephone or via their internet site.
- The Misuse of Drugs Regulations require that a controlled drug may not be supplied unless the supplier is either acquainted with the prescriber's signature and has no reason to suppose that it is not genuine, or has taken reasonably sufficient steps to satisfy himself that it is genuine.

Further guidance is available in the Society's Ethics and Practice Guide, or from the Department's inspectors.

Yours sincerely

DR MICHAEL MAWHINNEY
Head of Inspection and Enforcement