

Title of Guideline	Good Practice Guidance for Controlled Drugs (CD's)
Guideline Number	
Version	V3.0
Effective Date	February 2024
Review Date	February 2027
Original Version Published	August 2017
Equality Impact Assessment	
<i>Approvals:</i>	
Give details of approval at appropriate Governance meeting(s)	Approved at BHT pharmacy governance on 25/01/24. Approved at Community & Rehabilitation Clinical Governance & Quality Board on 21/02/24
Medicines Check (Pharmacy)	
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SDU(s)/Department(s) responsible for updating the guideline	Division of Integrated Elderly and Community Care
Date uploaded	February 2024
Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust	

Good Practice Guidance for Controlled Drugs (CD'S)

For all staff responsible for prescribing, ordering, and administering controlled drugs in primary care

	Schedule 2 <i>Fentanyl</i> <i>Methadone</i> <i>Methylphenidate</i> Morphine (all strength tablets & ampoules & Oramorph concentrated oral solution 20mg/ml) <i>Oxycodone</i> <i>Pethidine</i> Secobarbital	Schedule 3 <i>Buprenorphine</i> Gabapentin <i>Midazolam</i> <i>Phenobarbital</i> Pregabalin <i>Temazepam</i> <i>Tramadol</i>	Schedule 4 (part I) <i>Clobazam</i> <i>Clonazepam</i> <i>Diazepam</i> <i>Lorazepam</i> <i>Loprazolam</i> <i>Nitrazepam</i> <i>Oxazepam</i> <i>Zaleplon</i> <i>Zopiclone</i> <i>Zolpidem</i>
Designation	CD POM	CD NO REG POM	CD BENZ POM
CD Prescription requirements apply e.g. Strength AND formulation to be stated (tablets, capsules and if modified-release is required this must be specified), total quantity of dosage units to be supplied must be specified in words and figures e.g. 28 twenty eight tablets	Yes	Yes	No
Prescription valid for	28 days	28 days	28 days
Maximum quantity to be prescribed	30 days	30 days	30 days
Allowed on EPS	Yes	Yes	Yes
Allowed on repeat dispensing	No	No	Yes (first dispensing must be within 28 days of the date on the prescription ³)
Safe custody required e.g. locked medicines cupboard designated for CD's that complies with 'The Misuse of Drugs (Safe Custody) Regulations 1971' ¹	Yes	No except Temazepam & Buprenorphine	No
Emergency supply allowed (From a community pharmacy without a prescription)	No	No (except for Phenobarbital for the treatment of epilepsy prescribed by a UK registered prescriber)	Yes
CD requisition necessary to order stock- e.g. for medical bag use	Yes	Yes	No
CD register entry required to record drug supplies or issues	Yes	No	No
Denaturing required prior to disposal² (Nursing homes only)	Yes	Yes	Yes

Legal Requirements (The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)

Prescription requirements for controlled drugs:

- Prescriptions must be signed by the prescriber (digital signature for EPS prescriptions)
- All schedule 2 and 3 controlled drugs can now be prescribed electronically via EPS but CANNOT be dispensed as part of the NHS repeat dispensing scheme
- Both the formulation (e.g., tablets, capsules, etc), and strength must be clearly stated
- Total quantity of dosage units to be supplied must be in words and figures
- NICE guidance (NG46) on prescribing 'when required' controlled drugs - prescribers must include dosage instructions on the prescription (with the maximum daily amount or frequency of doses) so that this can be included on the label when dispensed.
- Prescribers should be able to justify the quantity requested on a clinical basis if more than 30 days' supply is prescribed (this is not a legal requirement, but a strong recommendation issued by the Department of Health).

¹The Misuse of Drugs Act (Safe Custody) Regulations 1971-
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/1973/798/schedule/2/made>

²Controlled drug destruction kits (also known as DOOM/DOOP kits) must be used to render the drug(s) irretrievable following the instructions on the kit. These can be obtained from supplying pharmacies or licensed medicine waste contractors

³<https://psnc.org.uk/dispensing-supply/dispensing-controlled-drugs/controlled-drug-prescription-forms-validity/>

N.B: This list is not exhaustive and is current at the time of development

Further reading

1. NICE. *Controlled drugs: safe use and management*. April 2016. ([link](#))
2. NICE: *Managing medicines in care homes*. March 2014. ([link](#))

References

1. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/controlled-drugs-list--2/list-of-mostcommonly-encountered-drugs-currently-controlled-under-the-misuse-of-drugs-legislation>
2. Medicines, Ethics & Practice, Edition Issue 42 July 2018
3. <https://cpe.org.uk/dispensing-and-supply/dispensing-process/dispensing-controlled-drugs/controlled-drug-prescription-forms-and-validity/>