



Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain

Law and Ethics Bulletin Amendments to the Professional Standards and Guidance Documents

Delivery of Medicines

From the 1 April 2009, the standards that supplement the Code of Ethics relating to the delivery and posting of medicines will be amended.

The standards for delivery and posting of medicines can be found in two documents:

- Professional standards and guidance for the sale and supply of medicines: Section 6
- Professional standards and guidance for internet pharmacy services: Section 7

The standards have been amended to clarify that a pharmacist can make deliveries to a designated person who is not the patient or their carer. The standards make clear that:

- delivery to a person other than the patient or carer is undertaken only where they have been specifically designated by the patient or their carer
- there must be clarity as to whether consent has been given for the service to be provided on a single occasion or for a set period of time.

Practical guidance in this area is being produced and will be published shortly.

Both of the professional standards and guidance documents have been updated and can be downloaded at www.rpsgb.org

Pandemic Flu

The Society consulted on changes to the standards for the sale and supply of medicines in the event of a pandemic flu. The Society Council has agreed amendments to the standards for the supply of date expired and patient returned medicines **only** in the event of a pandemic flu.

The new standards state:

1.6 'Date expired stock is segregated from the rest of the pharmacy stock and appropriately disposed of. Procedures must be in place to reduce the risk of short dated or out-of-date stock being accidentally supplied to a patient or member of the public. In the event of a pandemic flu, Level 6, date expired medicines may be supplied to patients, where this is in line with guidance issued by the Government and/or the RPSGB.'

1.8 'Medicines returned to the pharmacy from a patient's home, a care home or a similar institution are not supplied to another patient. While awaiting disposal, these medicines must be clearly marked and segregated from other stock.' In the event of a pandemic flu, Level 6, patient returned medicines may be supplied to patients, where this is in line with guidance issued by the Government and/or the RPSGB.'

Pharmacists will not be obliged to supply date expired or patient returned medicines, however in recognition of the global crisis, there may be circumstances in which supply of date expired or patient returned medicines may be considered appropriate.

The Society is currently working with other stakeholders to produce guidance for pharmacists should this situation arise. The professional standards and guidance for the sale and supply of medicines has been updated to reflect this new wording, and is available to download at www.rpsqb.org