



**Royal  
Pharmaceutical  
Society**  
of Great Britain

## **Law and Ethics Bulletin**

### **Changes to the arrangements for dealing with Controlled Drug requisitions – Part I**

Pharmacists are advised to note that changes have been made to the legislation regarding the way in which requisitions for Controlled Drugs in Schedules 1, 2 or 3 must be handled. (NB: Prescribers cannot normally obtain and prescribe Schedule 1 Controlled Drugs without the authority of a Home Office licence.)

The changes come into force on 1 January 2008, and apply to England, Scotland and Wales. The requirements apply to pharmacists in community pharmacy settings making supplies against requisitions for human use.

From 1 January 2008, the supplier of a Schedule 1, 2 or 3 Controlled Drug against a requisition must:

(i) On receipt, mark on the requisition (in ink or otherwise indelibly) the supplier's (ie, the pharmacy's) name and address. The Home Office, the Department of Health, the Scottish Executive and the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS; Wales) have confirmed that a pharmacy stamp can be used to mark these details on the requisition as long as the full address of the pharmacy from where the supply is made is included and the information is clear and legible.

(ii) Send the original requisition to the relevant NHS agency in accordance with arrangements specified by that agency.

The new requirements do not apply to veterinary requisitions (ie, those written by veterinary surgeons or veterinary practitioners).

As the requirements for a requisition state that the requisition must specify "the recipient's profession or occupation", this information should be available and clear on the requisition.

The new requirements do not make any changes to the procedures in other settings, such as NHS hospital trusts, care homes, pharmaceutical

wholesalers and manufacturers. Midwife supply orders are not affected by these changes.

Standardised requisition forms are being produced for use in England (FP10CDF) and Scotland (CDRF) and there are plans to introduce them in Wales. There is no legal requirement to use these standardised requisition forms, however, they should be used wherever possible, as a matter of good practice.

It will still be lawful for a community pharmacist to supply against a requisition form written in a format other than on the newly introduced standardised forms, as long as all the legal requirements for a requisition are complied with.

When one community pharmacy supplies another community pharmacy, both the Society and the DoH, the Scottish Executive and the DHSS advise that, as a matter of good practice, a written requisition should be obtained, and this should, ideally, be the standardised form.

**England** The standardised requisition form being introduced in England (FP10CDF) can be obtained in the same way as private standardised prescription forms (ie, from primary care trusts).

Prescribers who wish to obtain stocks of Schedule 1, 2 or 3 Controlled Drugs from a community pharmacy should use the standardised requisition form. In exceptional circumstances, for example, when an individual prescriber has difficulty in obtaining the standardised form, a Controlled Drug can be supplied in response to an order written on a non-standardised form, as long as all the legal requirements for a requisition are complied with.

**Scotland** The arrangements for the requisition form used in Scotland to obtain NHS stock will remain unchanged. GP10A stock order forms will continue to be used for NHS purposes. It should be noted that separate GP10A forms should be used for Schedule 1, 2 and 3 Controlled Drugs.

From 1 January 2008, the Scottish Executive will advise prescribers who wish to obtain stocks of Schedule 1, 2 and 3 Controlled Drugs privately from a community pharmacy to use the standardised requisition form (CDRF).

Those wishing to obtain a supply of CDRF forms must contact the local NHS board to register (if they are not already registered) as a private prescriber with the NHS Board and to order the forms.

In exceptional circumstances, where the CDRF form cannot be accessed, a Controlled Drug may be supplied in response to an order written on a non-standardised form provided all the legal requirements are complied with.

**Wales** There are plans to introduce a specific requisition form for Welsh prescribers to use. Further information will be published when it is received.

Part II of this Law and Ethics Bulletin, to be published at a later date, will provide further details on the submission requirements for Controlled Drug requisition forms.