



**Royal
Pharmaceutical
Society**
of Great Britain

Law and Ethics Bulletin

Clarification of the “Controlled Drugs in Hospital” section of the Medicines Ethics and Practice (MEP) guide, issue 31.

To clarify part (e) on page 27 of the MEP which states:

“A prescription issued for the treatment of a patient in a hospital or care home may be written on the patient’s bed-card or casesheet. The prescription would need to fully comply with the prescription requirements of a controlled drug.”

A bed-card or casesheet can be used as an authorisation to administer a controlled drug or as a prescription to make a supply of a controlled drug.

Where a bed-card or casesheet is used as an authorisation to **administer** a controlled drug, it would not need to comply with the full prescription requirements for a controlled drug. However, it would need to be clear to ensure the safe and accurate administration of the medicine to the patient.

Where a bed-card or casesheet is used as an authorisation to **supply** a controlled drug to a patient it would need to fully comply with the prescription requirements for a controlled drug. Part (e), above, refers to this scenario.