



**Royal  
Pharmaceutical  
Society**  
of Great Britain

## **Law and Ethics Bulletin**

### **Changes to the Arrangements for Dealing with Private Controlled Drug Prescriptions**

From 1 September 2007 there will be a change to the procedures for dealing with private Controlled Drug prescriptions in England (FP10PCD) and Wales (WP10PCD).

Currently, in England and Wales, copies of private prescriptions for Schedule 2 and Schedule 3 Controlled Drugs for human use, (on standardised private prescription forms), are sent to the relevant NHS agency at the end of each month by community pharmacies.

From 1 September 2007, following changes in legislation, the original private prescription for a Schedule 2 or Schedule 3 Controlled Drug must be sent to the relevant NHS agency. This change affects community pharmacists in England and Wales. In Scotland, original private prescriptions are currently sent to the relevant NHS agency and this arrangement will continue.

The original prescription should not be sent away until all supplies against the prescription that can be made have been made, because it is a requirement to mark on the prescription the date at the time of supply of a Schedule 2 or Schedule 3 Controlled Drug. The validity of prescriptions for Schedule 2 and 3 Controlled Drugs is 28 days, and unless the prescription contains instalments, supplies (including the balances of owings) cannot be made after this time. For prescriptions that contain instalments, the first dispensing must take place within 28 days of the appropriate date.

This change does not affect requisitions. New arrangements for requisitions come into force on 1 January 2008. Further guidance on this will be issued at a later date.