



**Royal
Pharmaceutical
Society**
of Great Britain

Law and Ethics Bulletin

Changes to Emergency Supply legislation

Pharmacists are advised that on 8th May 2009 legislation¹ came into force that made the following changes to emergency supplies of a prescription only medicine:

- the quantity of a prescription only medicine (which are not controlled drugs) that can be supplied at the request of a patient has been increased from 5 days' treatment to 30 days' treatment.
- in relation to the controlled drugs that can be supplied at the request of a patient (i.e. phenobarbitone for epilepsy and Schedule 4 and 5 controlled drugs), the quantity that may be supplied remains at 5 days' treatment.
- an emergency supply can be made at the request of a UK registered dentist, or at the request of a patient who was previously prescribed the requested prescription only medicine by a UK registered dentist. (This removes the anomaly that EEA or Swiss dentists and their patients could request an emergency supply but UK registered dentists and their patients could not.)

For further information on emergency supplies please see Section 1.2 of the Medicines, Ethics and Practice guide (www.rpsgb.org).

A further law and ethics bulletin will be issued with respect to the changes to emergency supply rules in the event of a pandemic.

¹The Medicines for Human Use (Prescribing)(Miscellaneous Amendments) Order 2009, SI 2009/1165: www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/pdf/uksi_20091165_en.pdf .