



**Royal
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The Wholesale of Controlled Drugs to Registered Paramedics

Medicines legislation allows registered paramedics to obtain medicines by way of wholesale.¹ The list of medicines a registered paramedic can administer and therefore obtain by way of wholesale from a registered pharmacy can be found in Section 1.2.4 of the Medicines, Ethics and Practice (MEP) guide.

In addition, registered paramedics are covered by group authorities which allow them to possess and administer, and therefore obtain by way of wholesale, certain Controlled Drugs, namely, morphine sulphate and diazepam for the purposes of administration for the immediate necessary treatment of sick or injured persons.²

The Home Office has recently revised the group authorities so they now cover NHS ambulance trusts, NHS paramedics and privately employed (including self-employed) paramedics.

Under the group authorities a registered paramedic (working in either the NHS or privately) can obtain morphine sulphate injection (to a maximum strength of 20mg), morphine sulphate oral and diazepam by way of wholesale from a registered pharmacy.

For information on the requirements for the supply of CDs by way of wholesale see section 1.2.13 of the MEP.

The Health Professions Council (telephone 020 7582 0866) should be contacted, if there is a need, to check a paramedic's registration status.

¹ Schedule 5, Part 3 Prescription Only Medicines (Human Use) Order 1997; Regulation 5(2)(a), Medicines (Sale or Supply) (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 1980

² Regulations 8(3), 9(3) and 10(3), Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001