



**Royal  
Pharmaceutical  
Society  
of Great Britain**

## **Law and Ethics Bulletin**

### **Correction to Page 26 of the MEP Guide Concerning Operating Department Practitioners and Ordering of Controlled Drugs**

The Home Office has confirmed that operating department practitioners (ODPs) are authorised to order Schedule 2, 3, 4 and 5 Controlled Drugs from a hospital pharmacy and that the hospital pharmacy, in which the ODP is practising, would be able to supply an ODP with those drugs.

ODPs are able to possess and supply Schedule 2–5 Controlled Drugs for the purposes of administration to a patient in a ward, theatre or other department, at the hospital in which they are practising, in accordance with the directions of an appropriate practitioner for that particular drug.

Currently, when ordering Controlled Drugs from a hospital pharmacy, the ODP is under no legal obligation to provide a written requisition. However, pharmacists are advised as a matter of good practice and/or to comply with local standard operating procedures, supplies should be made on the receipt of a requisition signed by the ODP. The legislation is due to be changed to make the provision of a written requisition a legal requirement.

There is no provision to allow an ODP to obtain Controlled Drugs from a community pharmacy.

This amends the information on “Requisitions for Schedule 1, 2 and 3 Controlled Drugs” published on p26 of “Medicines, ethics and practice: a guide for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians” (31st edition, July 2007).