



**Royal  
Pharmaceutical  
Society  
of Great Britain**

## **Law and Ethics Bulletin**

### **Mixing of medicines**

From 21<sup>st</sup> December 2009<sup>1</sup> legislation will change to allow pharmacist independent prescribers and nurse independent prescribers to mix medicines to produce an unlicensed medicine, where the “mixing of medicines” means the combining of two or more medicinal products together for the purposes of administering them to meet the needs of a particular patient. In a registered pharmacy, hospital, care home service or health centre, legislation already enables medicines to be mixed, by or under the supervision of a pharmacist.

A supplementary prescriber can mix medicines to produce an unlicensed medicine but only where the mixing of medicines forms part of the clinical management plan for an individual patient.

The mixing of medicinal products to produce an unlicensed medicine can also be undertaken by another person acting on the written directions of a pharmacist independent prescriber, a nurse independent prescriber or by a supplementary prescriber where the mixing of the medicines forms part of the clinical management plan for an individual patient.

The mixing of drugs should be avoided unless essential to meet the needs of the patient, and that those involved in both the prescribing and actual mixing should be competent to do so and take full professional and clinical responsibility for their actions. In addition such actions must be within the governance structures and guidance of the employing authority and of the relevant statutory bodies.

This change in legislation does not apply to the mixing of Controlled Drugs.

#### **Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> The Medicines (Exemptions and Miscellaneous Amendments) Order 2009 SI 3062:  
[www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/uksi\\_20093062\\_en\\_1](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2009/uksi_20093062_en_1) .