



**Royal
Pharmaceutical
Society
of Great Britain**

Law and Ethics Bulletin

Names and Signatures on Prescriptions

The Society has been made aware of situations where prescriptions have been signed by a registered appropriate practitioner; but have a name printed beneath that signature which is not the name of the appropriate practitioner.

Pharmacists are reminded that a prescription needs to be signed by an appropriate practitioner but there is no legal requirement for the name of the prescriber to be printed on the prescription. Whilst this could be potentially confusing for the dispensing pharmacist the prescriptions are legally valid if they are signed by an appropriate practitioner. The NHS Business Services Authority has also confirmed that such prescriptions will continue to be passed for payment.

For further information on the legal requirements for prescriptions see the Medicines, Ethics and Practice guide.