



**Royal
Pharmaceutical
Society
of Great Britain**

Law and Ethics Bulletin

Controlled Drug - Running Balances Must Include Out of Date Stock

Pharmacists are reminded that out of date controlled drug stock **must** continue to be included in the running balance, until such time as this stock is destroyed in the presence of an authorised witness.

Following the Government response to the 4th Report of the Shipman Inquiry, pharmacists and other healthcare professionals who supply controlled drugs are being encouraged to maintain a running balance of stock in their controlled drug register as a matter of **good practice**.

It is the pharmacist's responsibility to ensure that records are made in the controlled drug register and running balances are maintained in line with the pharmacy's standard operating procedures.

Guidance on 'Maintaining Running Balances of Controlled Drug Stock' can be accessed on the Society's website at:
www.rpsgb.org/pdfs/cdrunningbalanceguid.pdf.

Further guidance on Controlled Drugs can be accessed on the Society's website at:
www.rpsgb.org/worldofpharmacy/useofmedicines/controlledddrugs.html .