



**Royal
Pharmaceutical
Society
of Great Britain**

Law and Ethics Bulletin

Substances liable to misuse

The Society is re-issuing previous guidance about substances liable to misuse.

Pharmacists are reminded of the need to ensure that all staff involved in the sale or supply of OTC medicines are trained or are undertaking the training required for their duties.

Furthermore pharmacists must ensure that all persons involved in the sale of OTC products are aware of the abuse potential of certain OTC medicines and other products. All counter staff need to be aware of situations when referral to the pharmacist may be necessary and be familiar with the type of OTC medicines that may require the personal intervention of a pharmacist.

The Society has produced separate practice guidance about those substances that are liable to misuse. This guidance advises that:

Every pharmacist must be aware of any problems in his/her area, whether or not they are general, or known to the Society. He or she should be aware of any products that are sold in excessive quantities or with abnormal frequency. Consideration should be given to updating standard operating procedures to include advice on local procedures for dealing with such matters.

The guidance provides examples of the types of OTC products (those containing codeine, pseudoephedrine etc) that could be liable to misuse. However, it does not list brand name products due to their vast number. Therefore, when using the practice guidance pharmacists are advised to provide staff with examples of brand names that are stock in the pharmacy.

The full guidance *Substances of Misuse* is available at www.rpsgb.org