



**Royal  
Pharmaceutical  
Society**  
of Great Britain

## **Law and Ethics Bulletin**

### **Discarded/Unused Packaging**

To safeguard against the potential for counterfeit medicines to enter the supply chain, pharmacists are asked to consider how they discard unused packaging of medicinal products and medical devices.

Depending on the volume of packaging being discarded, pharmacists should consider whether any systems need to be put in place or strengthened to ensure the safe disposal of packaging to avoid the potential for packaging to be used by counterfeiters. Currently, for this reason, during the course of their inspections in the UK, Good Manufacturing Practice inspectors request licensed assemblers to demonstrate safe disposal of discarded original packaging.

The Society considers that careless discarding of large volumes of packaging from, for example, sites supplying a large number of patients with monitored-dosage systems, could present an unacceptable risk in relation to counterfeiting of medicines.