



**Royal
Pharmaceutical
Society
of Great Britain**

Law and Ethics Bulletin

The wholesale of medicines to registered chiropodists

Recent communications with the Health Professions Council (HPC) have highlighted that some chiropodists are experiencing difficulties accessing certain medicines they are lawfully able to obtain from pharmacies.

Chiropodists are sometimes referred to as podiatrists. The HPC refers to both terms and both are protected titles. However, the legislation (Prescription Only Medicines (Human Use) Order 1997 and Medicines (Pharmacy and General Sale Exemption) Order 1980) still refers to registered chiropodists. Therefore, pharmacists must be satisfied that a person requesting a supply of medicines from their pharmacy is a registered chiropodist and that their HPC register entry is appropriately annotated signifying that they are qualified to sell, supply or administer the medicines they request. Pharmacists can check the registration status of a chiropodist by contacting the HPC (Tel: 020 7582 0866) or by checking their online register (www.hpc-uk.org).

The wholesale of medicines to a registered chiropodist from a registered pharmacy for the chiropodist to sell or supply to their patients

Registered chiropodists, who have an annotation next to their name in the HPC register signifying that they are qualified to sell or supply medicines can sell or supply the following medicines. Therefore, they can obtain these medicines by wholesale from a registered pharmacy:

- (a) General Sale List medicines which are for external use;
- (b) Any of the following Pharmacy medicines for external use:
 - (i) potassium permanganate crystals or solution;
 - (ii) ointment of heparinoid and hyaluronidase; and
 - (iii) products containing as their only active ingredients, any of the following substances, not exceeding the strength specified in each case:

- Borotannic complex 9.0%
- Buclosamide 10.0%
- Chlorquinaldol 3.0%
- Clotrimazole 1.0%
- Crotamiton 10.0%
- Diamthazole hydrochloride 5.0%
- Econazole nitrate 1.0%
- Fenticlor 1.0%
- Glutaraldehyde 10.0%
- Griseofulvin 1.0%

Hydrargaphen 0.4%
Mepyramine maleate 2.0%
Miconazole nitrate 2.0%
Phenoxypropan-2-ol 2.0%
Podophyllum resin 20.0%
Polynoxylin 10.0%
Pyrogallol 70.0%
Salicylic acid 70.0%
Terbinafine 1.0%
Thiomersal 0.1%

- (c) Co-dydramol 10/500 tablets (amount sufficient for 3 days' treatment to a maximum of 24 tablets);
- (d) Amorolfine hydrochloride cream where the maximum strength of the Amorolfine in the cream does not exceed 0.25 per cent by weight in weight;
- (e) Amorolfine hydrochloride lacquer where the maximum strength of the Amorolfine in the lacquer does not exceed 5 per cent by weight in volume;
- (f) Topical hydrocortisone where the maximum strength of the hydrocortisone in the medicinal product does not exceed 1 per cent by weight in weight;
- (g) Amoxicillin;
- (h) Erythromycin;
- (i) Flucoxacillin;
- (j) Tioconazole 28%;
- (k) Silver Sulfadiazine;
- (l) Ibuprofen (only preparations which are not prescription-only medicines).

A chiropodist can only sell or supply these medicinal products, under certain conditions. These conditions are:

- (i) the sale or supply shall be only in the course of their professional practice;
- (ii) the medicinal product has been made up for sale and supply in a container elsewhere than at the place at which it is sold or supplied;
- (iii) in the case of Co-dydramol 10/500 tablets the quantity sold or supplied to a person at any one time shall not exceed the amount sufficient for 3 days' treatment to a maximum of 24 tablets; and
- (iv) in the case of ibuprofen the maximum dose is 400mg, the maximum daily dose is 1,200mg and the maximum pack size is 3,600mg for 3 days treatment.

Pharmacists can only supply original and complete packs to chiropodists as this is a wholesale transaction. Pharmacists should therefore consider which pack size they wholesale to chiropodists especially in the case of co-dydramol and ibuprofen as chiropodists are limited to the quantity they can supply to their patients and are unable to alter the pack size once it has been supplied to them from the pharmacy.

Pharmacists must keep a record in the prescription-only register of the wholesale supply of any prescription only medicines (e.g. co-dydramol 10/500), or keep a copy of the order for prescription only medicines provided by the chiropodist for two years. It is good practice to make a record in the prescription-only register and keep the order for two years.

The wholesale of medicines to a registered chiropodist from a registered pharmacy for the chiropodist to administer to their patients

Registered chiropodists, who have an annotation next to their name in the HPC register signifying that they are qualified to administer medicines can administer the following medicines. Therefore, they can obtain these medicines by wholesale from a registered pharmacy:

- (a) Adrenaline
- (b) Bupivacaine hydrochloride
- (c) Bupivacaine hydrochloride with adrenaline where the maximum strength of the adrenaline does not exceed 1 mg in 200 ml of bupivacaine hydrochloride
- (d) Levobupivacaine hydrochloride
- (e) Lignocaine hydrochloride
- (f) Lignocaine hydrochloride with adrenaline where the maximum strength of the adrenaline does not exceed 1 mg in 200 ml of lignocaine hydrochloride
- (g) Mepivacaine hydrochloride
- (h) Methylprednisolone
- (i) Prilocaine hydrochloride
- (j) Ropivacaine hydrochloride

A chiropodist can only administer the above parenteral prescription only medicines if the administration is in the course of their professional practice.

Pharmacist can only supply original and complete packs to chiropodists as this is a wholesale transaction.

Pharmacists must keep a record in the prescription-only register of the wholesale supply of any prescription only medicines or keep a copy of the order provided by the chiropodist for two years. It is good practice to make a record in the prescription-only register and keep the order for prescription only medicines for two years.

For further information please contact the Society's Legal and Ethical Advisory Service on 020-7572-2308 or email: leadvice@rpsgb.org.