

Queries on asking for ID

Pharmacists must ascertain whether the person collecting a Schedule 2 CD is the patient, the patient's representative or a healthcare professional acting in their capacity as such. If the person collecting the Schedule 2 CD is the patient or the patient's representative the pharmacist may ask for proof of identity. If the person is a healthcare professional the pharmacist must obtain the person's name and address and must ask for proof of identity unless the health professional is known to them. In order not to deny patient's access to the drugs they require, it will not be a criminal offence to supply a Schedule 2 CD without proof of identity, even when the pharmacist does not know that person.

1. Do I have to ask for ID for all CD prescriptions that are collected?

No, this requirement only applies to Schedule 2 CDs. There is a legal obligation for pharmacists to identify whether the person collecting a Schedule 2 CD is the patient, the patient's representative or a healthcare professional acting in their professional capacity on behalf of the patient.

If the person collecting the Schedule 2 CD is the patient or the patient's representative then the pharmacist may ask for ID, unless that person is already known to them or unless, in the pharmacist's opinion, patient confidentiality would be compromised by asking for ID.

In the case of a healthcare professional the pharmacist must also obtain the person's name and address and must, unless acquainted with the person, request evidence of their identity.

2. What if ID is not provided?

It is not a criminal offence to supply a Schedule 2 CD without proof of identity, even when the pharmacist does not know the person collecting the CD. If the pharmacist asks for ID but the person collecting the Schedule 2 CD does not show ID for whatever reason, it is up to the pharmacist's professional judgement whether or not they supply the CD, taking into account the patient's clinical need.

3. Where do I record this information?

Currently it is not a legal requirement to record this information. However, the pharmacist could record the information in the CD register if there is space available to do this. Record keeping requirements around the identity of persons collecting Schedule 2 CDs will come into force on 1st February 2008.

4. If a porter in a hospital is taking a Schedule 2 CD to the ward for a named patient, do I need to request ID and ask for the porters name and address?

The legislative requirements to check ID apply to Schedule 2 CDs that are supplied against a prescription for a named patient. As a hospital porter does not fall within the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 definition of a healthcare professional you should ask the porter for ID unless they are already known to you, but legislation does not require you to ask for the porter's name and address. It would be good practice for the hospital to determine further audit trail procedures once the CD reaches the ward.