

Queries on prescriber identification number

Private prescriptions for all Schedule 2 & 3 CDs for human use will contain the prescriber identification number (this is the number issued by the relevant NHS Agency for the purposes of that person's private prescribing). It is not the prescriber's professional registration number. Community pharmacists are not able to dispense a **private** prescription for a Schedule 2 or 3 CD for human use issued by a prescriber if the prescription does not contain the prescriber identification number (and is on the correct form). Private prescribers should inform their PCO (Health Board in Scotland) if they need a private prescriber identification number. Pharmacists in a hospital will be able to make a supply against a private CD prescription even if it does not specify the prescriber's identification number.

1. Do I need this prescriber identification number on NHS prescriptions for CDs?

No, the requirement is only for private prescriptions for Schedule 2 and 3 CDs.

2. Is the prescriber identification number the same as the GMC number?

No.

3. Is the prescriber identification number the same as the prescriber's NHS code?

No, not in England and Wales. In Scotland, valid NHS prescriber codes will be used where available and new private prescriber codes will be issued where necessary.

4. Is the patient's identifier legally required on a private CD prescription?

No, not yet, but this may become mandatory in the future. However, this is currently recommended as good practice. In England this is the patient's NHS number, in Scotland this is the Community Health Index (CHI) number and in Wales arrangements are yet to be made.