

Queries on signing on collection

In England and Scotland, prescription forms (both private and NHS) contain a space on the back of the prescription for those collecting Schedule 2 or 3 CDs for human use to confirm that they have done so. This declaration will appear on both NHS and non-NHS (private) forms. In Wales, the space allocated for this declaration is currently only available on private prescription forms for CDs. Pharmacists will have discretion whether or not to supply if the collector does not sign the back of the prescription. This is currently not a legal requirement but is good practice.

1. If a delivery driver is taking a dispensed Schedule 2 or 3 CD to a patient, either at their own home or in a care home, who signs the back of the prescription?

Ideally, it should normally be the patient who signs for the collection of the prescription. However, if that is not possible then the patient may nominate a person to do this on their behalf, this could be the delivery driver, or another representative.

As with any delivery scheme, there should be a robust audit trail in place, so that when the driver hands the medicine to the patient / patient's representative or carer, this is also documented. Wherever possible a signature should be obtained indicating safe delivery of the medicines.

2. Are pharmacists able to supply Schedule 2 and 3 CDs where the person collecting the medicine has not signed / refuses to sign the back of the prescription?

Yes, pharmacists will be expected to use their professional judgement when supplying a Schedule 2 or 3 CD if the person collecting the medicine does not wish to sign the back of the prescription. However, the Regulations state that you 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.

3. Is a patient collecting their CDs in instalments via an FP10 (MDA) or equivalent required to sign the back of the prescription each time they collect their medicine?

These patients are not required to sign for each instalment, nor will a third party collecting the CD on the patient's behalf. However, it would be good practice to have the back of the prescription signed on at least one occasion. Particular care should be exercised when a third party collects a CD for a patient being treated for drug dependence. A letter of authority from the patient should be obtained on every occasion that the representative collects the medicine and this letter should be retained in the pharmacy.