

Queries on the validity of CD prescriptions

The validity of Schedule 2, 3 and 4 CD prescriptions has been restricted to 28 days from the appropriate date on the prescription. This means that the prescription should not be dispensed if more than 28 days have elapsed since the appropriate date. This date will either be the date the prescription was signed by the person issuing it or the date indicated by him/her as being the start date.

1. How long are Schedule 2, 3 and 4 CD prescriptions valid for and does this validity start from the date of signing the CD prescription?

Schedule 2, 3 and 4 CD prescriptions are only valid for 28 days. The 28 days will either start from the date the prescription was signed by the prescriber issuing it or the date indicated by him / her as being the start date.

2. Can the start date specified be a date more than 28 days from the date of signing / issue?

Yes, the start date specified can be more than 28 days from the date of signing / issue.

3. Can dispensed items or owings for a Schedule 2, 3 or 4 CD be collected more than 28 days after the appropriate date on the prescription?

No. Schedule 2, 3 and 4 CDs cannot be supplied more than 28 days after the appropriate date (for further information on repeat prescriptions for Schedule 4 CD – see Q.5 and instalment prescriptions – see Q.6).

4. What do you do with a prescription for a Schedule 2, 3 or 4 CD if an owing has not been collected and the 28 days validity has expired?

You need to endorse the prescription with the amount of CD that you have supplied and submit it in the normal way.

5. Can we still carry out repeat dispensing for Schedule 4 CDs?

Yes, this is not contrary to the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001, as amended, as long as the first dispensing is within 28 days of the appropriate date. After the first dispensing, legislation does not specify the timeframe in which the repeat dispensing(s) of private prescriptions should be made. However, for the NHS Repeat Dispensing Scheme in England and Wales, batch repeats are valid for a maximum of 12 months.

6. What about instalment dispensing of CDs?

The first instalment must be dispensed within 28 days of the appropriate date, after which the prescription can run until all the instalments are filled.

7. Does the 28 day validity also apply in a hospital setting?

The requirements only apply to **prescriptions** (for example, hospital outpatient prescriptions that are to be dispensed in a community pharmacy or hospital TTOs to be dispensed in the hospital pharmacy); they do not apply to administration charts or bed cards.