PRIVATE PRESCRIBING OF CONTROLLED DRUGS

Procedure for doctors and other independent prescribers prescribing Controlled Drugs privately within Northamptonshire PCT

Background
- From 7th July 2006 ALL prescriptions for schedule 2 & 3 Controlled Drugs dispensed by community pharmacies will be monitored by the Prescription Pricing Authority and the PCT
- Any doctor or other independent prescriber wishing to prescribe Controlled Drugs privately after 7th July 2006 must obtain a ‘Private CD Prescriber Code’
- Private prescriptions issued for these drugs after 7th July 2006 will have to be written on special private prescription forms FP10(PCD) which are pink in colour
- Pharmacists will submit these forms to the PPA on a monthly basis for monitoring

How to get a Private CD Prescriber Code
- Only one code number is issued per private prescriber, regardless of the number and location of private clinics where they prescribe.
- Doctors working as General Practitioner should apply to the PCT on whose medical list or performers list they appear. That PCT will then request the Prescription Pricing Authority to issue a code.
- Doctors or other independent prescribers working privately should apply to the PCT where their major private practice is situated.

In order to action the request for a Private CD Prescriber Code, the PCT needs to have the following information:
- Prescriber title, surname and initials
- GMC number (or GP national code number, if applicable) or other professional registration number.
- Full address and contact number of the private practice where the prescriptions will be used (this will be used to pre-print prescription forms)
- A start date (if not required immediately)
- The prescriber is required to provide this information on the Private CD Prescriber Amendment form which will be supplied by the PCT.

In some circumstances the PCT may request additional information to establish whether applications are bona fide. This could include proof of current registration, professional references, and evidence of the practice address.
For prescribers applying to Northamptonshire PCT, requests should be sent in the first instance to:

Sue Smith
Associate Director Pharmacy Policy and Prescribing
Northamptonshire PCT
Bevan House
Kettering Parkway South
Kettering
NN15 6XR
or
sue.smith@northants.nhs.uk

How to get supplies of FP10(PCD) prescriptions
Once the PCT has your Private CD Prescriber Code we will order your FP10(PCD) forms on your behalf. They come in pads of 10 and cost £2.30 for 10 and the private prescriber / organisation will be invoiced for their cost. These can be pre-printed with the Private CD Prescriber Code and address details, or be left blank for use in a computer, which will complete the details when printing the prescription form.

The prescriptions will need to be collected from the PCT offices, and require a signature.
You will need to notify the PCT when a new order is required.
Please allow at least 10 working days for orders to be delivered.

Monitoring
Private prescribing of Controlled Drugs will be monitored electronically by the PPA and by the PCT. Information about prescribing patterns may be shared within local intelligence networks, which will be established to monitor issues relating to the use and abuse of Controlled Drugs.

Which drugs does this apply to?
Examples of drugs included in these schedules are given below. These are not exhaustive – if in any doubt contact your local pharmacist for advice.

Drugs in Schedule 2
- Opiates (eg morphine, diamorphine, methadone)
- Major stimulants (eg cocaine, amphetamines)
- Quinalbarbitone

Drugs in Schedule 3
- Minor stimulant drugs (eg benzphetamine)
- Temazepam and flunitrazepam
- Buprenorphine
- Diethylpropion
- Barbiturates (excluding quinalbarbitone)