



Changes to controlled drugs legislation for nurse and pharmacist independent prescribers - came into force on 23rd April 2012

Amendments to the Misuse of Drugs Regulations were laid before Parliament on 30th March 2012 and come into force on 23rd April 2012. The amendments relate to nurse and pharmacist independent prescribing, and mixing of controlled drugs.

The changes allow:

- Nurse independent prescribers to prescribe any schedule 2-5 controlled drug within their clinical competence, removing the previous limitations
- Pharmacist independent prescribers to prescribe any schedule 2-5 controlled drug within their clinical competence
- Nurse and pharmacist independent prescribers, and supplementary prescribers when within the terms of a clinical management plan, to mix schedule 2-5 controlled drugs for administration to a patient and provide written directions for others to do so
- Nurse and pharmacist independent prescribers to possess, supply, offer to supply, administer and give directions for the administration of any controlled drug specified in schedule 2-5.
- Registered nurses and pharmacists to supply or offer to supply morphine or diamorphine under a PGD for the immediate and necessary treatment of a sick and injured person in any setting
- These changes **do not** apply to the prescribing of cocaine, diamorphine or dipipanone for the treatment of addiction (this is restricted to Home Office licensed doctors).

For full details please see the statutory instrument: The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment No.2) (England, Wales and Scotland) Regulations 2012
(<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/973/contents/made>)

The NPC non-medical prescribing FAQs (http://www.npc.nhs.uk/faqs_nmp.php) will be updated shortly to reflect these changes.

Nurse and pharmacist independent prescribers should ensure that they only prescribe within their clinical competence and that they have up to date knowledge of the doses, side-effects, interactions, cautions and contraindications of the controlled drugs they intend to prescribe.

NHFT staff are reminded that the current NMP Policy is being reviewed and these changes are being incorporated into the revised document. This Policy should be ratified at the Policy Board to be held in May. Once approved staff will be notified.

This edition is also available on HNN (Health Network Northants)
<http://nww.northants.nhs.uk/Display/Dynamic.jsp?topid=14070&lhsid=514&oid=2854¤tid=2854>

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