



Good Practice Guidance for Controlled Drugs (CD's)

For all staff responsible for prescribing, ordering and administering controlled drugs in primary care

	Schedule 2 <i>Oxycodone</i> <i>Fentanyl</i> <i>Morphine (all strength tablets & ampoules & solutions with concentrations of 20mg/ml)</i> <i>Methadone</i> <i>Pethidine</i>	Schedule 3 <i>Temazepam</i> <i>Buprenorphine</i> <i>Tramadol</i> <i>Midazolam</i> <i>Phenobarbital</i>	Schedule 4 (part I) <i>Zopiclone</i> <i>Diazepam</i> <i>Clobazam</i> <i>Clonazepam</i> <i>Lorazepam</i> <i>Loprazolam</i> <i>Nitrazepam</i> <i>Oxazepam</i> <i>Zolpidem</i> <i>Zaleplon</i>
Designation	CD POM	CD POM NO REG	CD BENZ POM
CD Prescription requirements apply	Yes	Yes	No
Prescription valid for	28 days	28 days	28 days
Maximum quantity to be prescribed	30 days	30 days	30 days
Allowed on repeat dispensing/EPS	No	No	Yes
Safe custody required- e.g. locked medicines cupboard designated for CD's that complies with 'The Misuse of Drugs (Safe Custody) Regulations 1971'¹	Yes	No except Temazepam & Buprenorphine	No
Emergency supply allowed (from a community pharmacy without a prescription)	No	No (except for Phenobarbital for the treatment of epilepsy prescribed by a UK registered prescriber)	Yes
CD requisition necessary to order stock- e.g. for medical bag use	Yes	Yes	No
CD register entry required to record drug supplies or issues	Yes	No	No
Denaturing required prior to disposal² (nursing homes only)	Yes	Yes	Yes

¹The Misuse of Drugs Act (Safe Custody) Regulations 1971-<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uk/si/1973/798/schedule/2/made>

²Controlled drug destruction kits (also known as DOOM/DOOP kits) must be used to render the drug(s) irretrievable following the instructions on the kit. These can be obtained from supplying pharmacies or licensed medicine waste contractors

N.B: This list is not exhaustive and is current at the time of development



Legal Requirements (The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)

Prescription requirements for controlled drugs:

- Prescriptions must be signed by the prescriber
- All schedule 2 and 3 controlled drugs cannot currently be dispensed as part of the NHS repeat dispensing scheme or issued electronically via EPS.
- The formulation and strength must be stated
- Total quantity of dosage units to be supplied must be in words and figures
- Directions for use must stipulate a dose. Examples of doses that are not legally acceptable include 'when required' or 'as directed'. A legally accepted alternative would be 'One to two when required with a stated frequency interval over 24 hours e.g. 1-2 PRN TDS' (with the maximum daily amount)
- Prescribers should be able to justify the quantity requested on a clinical basis if more than 30 days' supply is prescribed (this is not a legal requirement but a strong recommendation issued by the Department of Health).

Further reading

1. NICE. *Controlled drugs: safe use and management*. April 2016. ([link](#))
2. NICE: *Managing medicines in care homes*. March 2014. ([link](#))

References

1. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/controlled-drugs-list--2/list-of-most-commonly-encountered-drugs-currently-controlled-under-the-misuse-of-drugs-legislation>
2. Medicines, Ethics & Practice, Edition 40 July 2016

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