

PRESS RELEASE

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PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE

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PSNC has today responded to the Home Office consultation on proposed amendments to the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001. A copy of the response can be found at the following address:

<http://www.psn.org.uk/index.php?type=page&pid=31&k=7>

Stephen Lutener, *Head of Regulation* states, "the proposals to amend the regulations to remove the prescribed format of the CD register, and replace it with a list of required fields is welcomed, and will enable pharmacists to keep registers that are fit for purpose. The proposal to allow Accountable Officers to authorise persons to witness the destruction of controlled drugs is also welcomed, since this will help prevent build up of unwanted stock in the pharmacy. PSNC believes that the services of the authorised witness should be available free of charge.

The new requirement to submit requisitions for Schedule 1, 2 or 3 controlled drugs to the NHSBSA will impose a greater burden on pharmacy contractors, and is justifiable as part of tightening the audit chain. However, the proposals would fail to cover all vulnerable areas, since requisitions furnished by out of hours centres and others that obtain controlled drugs from hospitals would fall outside the scope of the requirements. PSNC suggests that this weakness in the audit trail is addressed as soon as possible.

It is reassuring that the Home Office is seeking early views on the sending of electronic prescriptions for controlled drugs, and in its response, PSNC supports amendment of the Regulations to enable electronic prescribing of controlled drugs. But, with Release 2 of the Electronic Prescription Service being piloted later this year, the amendments to the Regulations should be brought forward as soon as possible."

- ENDS -

Notes for editors:

1. The Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) is the body that represents community pharmacy on NHS matters and seeks to secure the best possible NHS services provided by pharmacy contractors in England and Wales.

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