



**Royal
Pharmaceutical
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of Great Britain

Law and Ethics Bulletin

Prescribing of Controlled Drugs by pharmacist and nurse independent prescribers

On 1 April 2008 an amendment to the Prescription Only Medicines (Human Use) Order 1997 will come into force. It goes part way to enable pharmacist independent prescribers to prescribe Controlled Drugs. The amendment also paves the way for the removal of the restriction on the Controlled Drugs that a nurse independent prescriber may prescribe. However, allowing pharmacist independent prescribers and nurse independent prescribers to prescribe an unrestricted range of Schedule 2, 3, 4 and 5 Controlled Drugs requires a change to the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001, which will not be in place by 1 April.

Until the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 are amended pharmacist independent prescribers will not be able to prescribe Controlled Drugs. Nurse independent prescribers will continue to be limited to the range of Controlled Drugs they can currently prescribe for particular indications.

A Law and Ethics Bulletin will be published to inform pharmacists when the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 are amended. Further guidance will be issued at that time.

Supplementary prescribers can still prescribe all Controlled Drugs as long as they are part of an agreed clinical management plan and the supplementary prescriber is working within his or her level of competence.