



**Royal
Pharmaceutical
Society**
of Great Britain

Law and Ethics Bulletin

Restriction on sale or supply of pseudoephedrine and ephedrine containing medicines

Pharmacists are advised that they should, with immediate effect, ensure that sales of any pseudoephedrine and ephedrine containing medicines are restricted to one pack per sale.

Adequate procedures should be in place to prevent multiple pack sales and all staff involved in the sale or supply of these products should also be appropriately trained.

In January 2007, the Society issued advice to pharmacists highlighting a link between methamphetamine and cold remedies (Law and Ethics Bulletin: www.rpsgb.org/pdfs/LEBmethamphetcoldrem.pdf). It was highlighted that methamphetamine can be synthesised relatively easily using everyday equipment and commonly available ingredients, including over-the-counter cold remedies. Pharmacists were asked to be alert to unusual requests for any items or products containing these ingredients and advised that requests for inappropriately large quantities of such products should be treated with caution.

This updated advice concerning sales restrictions reflects recommendations made by the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM) following consultation MLX 337 which proposed to restrict the availability of medicines containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine. The CHM has advised that a number of controls should be put in place, full details of which can be found at: www.mhra.gov.uk/home/idcplg?IdcService=SS_GET_PAGE&useSecondary=true&ssDocName=CON2032216&ssTargetNodeId=389

Further guidance will be provided once the implications of the CHM advice have been fully considered.