

Queries on 30 days supply

The quantity of Schedule 2, 3 and 4 CDs to be prescribed at any one time should not exceed 30 days supply. This is good practice and not a legal requirement as there may be circumstances where there is a genuine need to prescribe more than 30 days supply. Pharmacists are able to dispense Schedule 2, 3 and 4 CD prescriptions calling for more than 30 days supply. In circumstances where the prescriber believes that a supply of more than 30 days is clinically indicated and would not pose an unacceptable risk to patient safety, the prescriber should make a record of the reasons in the patient's notes and should be ready to justify this decision if required. In cases where the pharmacist is concerned that prescribing may not be justified s/he could consider informing the Accountable Officer.

1. Do I have to contact the prescriber each time they ask for a supply of a Schedule 2 – 4 CD over 30 days supply or can I get ongoing authorisation for a supply exceeding 30 days?

This is **not** a legislative requirement and pharmacists are able to dispense Schedule 2, 3 & 4 CD prescriptions calling for more than 30 days supply. You do not need to contact the prescriber each time they request a supply of a Schedule 2-4 CD over 30 days. There may be circumstances where there is a genuine need to prescribe more than 30 days supply and pharmacists should exercise their professional judgement and assess both the prescription and the situation to check the suitability for the patient. As with all prescriptions, if you are concerned that the prescription may not be appropriate then you should contact the prescriber.

2. In Scotland we can have instalments that go for longer than 30 days supply so can we still dispense these?

There is no legislation which prevents this. However, the 28-day validity period will apply as for other prescriptions for controlled drugs. The 28-day period starts on the date of signing by the prescriber or on a start date specified by the prescriber. The first instalment must be dispensed within the 28-day limit, with the remainder dispensed in accordance with the instructions on the form.