

Queries on private prescription forms:

Since 7th July 2006, community pharmacists cannot dispense a private prescription for a Schedule 2 or 3 CD for human use that is issued by a prescriber in Scotland or England if it is not on the relevant standardised prescription form. Private prescriptions for a Schedule 2 or 3 CD for human use issued by a prescriber in Wales which are not written on a standardised private prescription form can continue to be dispensed in England, Scotland and Wales until 1st January 2007. The requirement to use standardised prescription forms when prescribing Schedule 2 & 3 CDs does not apply to veterinary prescriptions, but does apply to prescriptions issued by doctors, dentists and non-medical prescribers (e.g. nurse and pharmacist prescribers). This requirement does not apply to prescriptions which will be dispensed in the hospital pharmacy but does apply to hospital prescriptions/forms issued by a hospital prescriber in England or Scotland which are to be dispensed by a community pharmacy. Where prescriptions for prisoners and some other patients are provided by the NHS under a service level agreement – this is classed as NHS activity and the new private prescription forms for CDs need not be used for such patients.

1. Does Temazepam have to be written on a private standardised form?

The requirement that CDs prescribed privately must be written on the standardised form applies to all CDs, except those in Schedule 4 or 5. All private prescriptions for Temazepam must therefore be on the standardised form.

2. Can the prescriber use a photocopy of the standardised form?

No, a new standardised form must be used for each prescription as these contain serial numbers.

3. If a private CD prescription is issued from a hospital does it have to be on the standardised form?

The requirement for the private prescription to be on the new standardised form would only apply to hospital outpatient private prescriptions that are to be dispensed in the community.

4. Do dentists or vets also need to use these forms?

Dentists are required to use these forms but vets are not required to use these forms.

5. Do prescriptions from hospices or care homes that the PCO have a service level agreement with need to be written on these forms?

Not if the hospice or care home is a PCO, NHS funded organisation. However, if the hospice or care home is privately run and privately funded then the standardised forms would need to be used. The status of the organisation can be confirmed by contacting the PCO.

6. Can a Schedule 2 or 3 CD private prescription issued by a prescriber in Wales be dispensed in England and Scotland if it is not on a standardised form?

Yes, up until the 1st January 2007. After 1st January 2007 Schedule 2 and 3 CD private prescriptions issued by a prescriber in Wales will be required to be on a standardised form

7. If an English or Scottish private prescription for a Schedule 2 or 3 CD is dispensed in Wales, what happens to the prescription?

A copy of the standardised private prescription form should be sent to Health Solution Wales.

8. If a Welsh private prescription for a Schedule 2 or 3 CD is dispensed in England and Scotland does the non-standardised private prescription form need to be sent to the relevant NHS agency e.g. NHSBSA or NHSNSS?

No, the private prescription should be dispensed in the normal way, a record made in the private prescription book / CD register as applicable and the prescription retained in the pharmacy for two years.

9. Do signed orders or requisitions need to be written on this form?

No, these changes do not affect signed order or requisitions. However, there may be standardised forms for signed orders / requisitions in the future as this was a recommendation from the Shipman Inquiry