

Friday, June 19

Dear Andrew Howitt

Utilisation of the Electronic Prescribing Service for Controlled Drugs

I am writing to advise you that, as of June 15, 2020, Devon Doctors' out-of-hours services in Devon and Somerset are utilising the Electronic Prescribing Service [EPS] for schedule 2 and 3 Controlled Drugs [CDs].

This will help us manage the increasing number of prescriptions we see in the out-of-hours period for these drugs, which can't be managed by CPCS or Pharm+.

Our ability to send CDs by EPS will not only allow patients with palliative care needs to obtain the end-of-life medication they need in a much more timely fashion, but will reduce the need for base visits to collect these prescriptions, thereby allowing more valuable OOH GP appointments to be made available.

We kindly ask that you share this news with all contractors, so they are aware that they are likely to see an increased number of prescriptions for CDs [schedules 2 and 3] being sent by EPS over the weekends.

Rest assured, we will be following strict governance processes, and ensuring that prescribing of these drugs is closely monitored. In normal circumstances, our clinicians will only prescribe a sufficient quantity of medication to cover the remainder of the out-of-hours period plus an additional 24 to 48 hours – giving the patient the opportunity to contact their practice to obtain further supplies and allow the practice time to respond to this request.

I very much appreciate your ongoing support; should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email our Senior Clinical Management Team via ddooh.scmt@nhs.net.

Best wishes
Shaneef Jeraj
Pharmaceutical Advisor
Devon Doctors / Meddcare Somerset



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