

Canice Ward
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Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Mánnystrie O Poustie

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Registered Pharmacies

Dear Colleague,

Community Pharmacy Emergency Supply Service

The Community Pharmacy Emergency Supply Service has been launched and replaces the Community Pharmacy Emergency Supply During a Pandemic Service. The new service is underpinned by Regulation 225 of the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 (the Regulations).¹

Emergency Supplies of Controlled Drugs

Pharmacists are reminded that emergency supplies of controlled drugs listed in Schedules 1, 2 and 3 are not permitted.²

It should be noted that the Regulations are permissive of supplies of controlled drugs from Schedules 4 and 5, provided that the conditions outlined in the Regulations are met and quantities do not exceed those for **five days treatment**.

However, pharmacists should ensure that they are familiar with the service specification of the SPPG scheme as supplies of controlled drugs from Schedule 4 Part 1 **are not** permitted under the terms of the Community Pharmacy Emergency Supply Service.³

¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/1916/regulation/225>

² Phenobarbital Sodium for the treatment of epilepsy is an exception and may be supplied under the provisions of Regulations 224 and 225.

³ <https://hscbusiness.hscni.net/services/3329.htm>

Pharmacists encountering requests from patients to make an emergency supply of a controlled drug from Schedule 4 Part 1 may consider making a supply in a private capacity, independent of the commissioned service, where the conditions of the Regulations are met, and the pharmacist considers supply as the appropriate action.

Record Keeping Requirements

A person lawfully conducting a retail pharmacy business must make an entry in a written or computerised **record kept for that purpose** of all prescription only medicines that have been supplied using the emergency supply provisions described. The particulars to be recorded are:

- (a) the date on which the prescription only medicine was sold or supplied;
- (b) the name, quantity and, except where it is apparent from the name, the pharmaceutical form and strength of the prescription only medicine sold or supplied;
- (c) the name and address of the person requiring the prescription only medicine; and
- (d) the nature of the emergency.

Labelling Requirements

When a pharmacist supplies a medicine using emergency supply provisions it must be labelled with the following:


- (a) the date on which the prescription only medicine is sold or supplied;
- (b) the name, quantity and (unless apparent from the name) the pharmaceutical strength of the prescription only medicine;
- (c) the name of the person requesting the prescription only medicine;
- (d) the name and address of the registered pharmacy from which the prescription only medicine is sold or supplied; and
- (e) the words "Emergency Supply".

Monitoring

The Pharmacy Inspectors will continue to monitor supplies of medicines during visits. SPPG will notify the Inspectors of any suspected legislative breaches associated with the Community Pharmacy Emergency Supply Service which have been identified up through routine monitoring.

A table summarising the differences in the supplies permitted by the Regulations and the Community Pharmacy Emergency Supply Service has been developed and included as an Appendix to this letter. This should serve as a useful aide memoire for use in community pharmacies and assist pharmacy teams in ensuring compliance with the scheme and associated legislation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Canice Ward". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Canice Ward
Head of Medicines Regulatory Group
Department of Health

Appendix 1: Emergency Supply of Controlled Drugs

Schedule of Controlled Drug (Including examples of frequently used medicines)	Emergency Supply legislation i.e. Regulation 225 of HMR 2012 The Human Medicines Regulations 2012 (legislation.gov.uk)	Emergency Supply via the Community Pharmacy Emergency Supply Service BSO Website
Supply of Schedule 2 CD e.g. oxycodone, morphine, diamorphine, methylphenidate, fentanyl	Not permitted	Not permitted
Supply of Schedule 3 CD e.g. pregabalin, gabapentin, tramadol, temazepam, midazolam	Not permitted⁴	Not permitted
Supply of Schedule 4-part 1 CD e.g. diazepam, lorazepam, nitrazepam, clobazam, zopiclone, zolpidem	Up to a maximum of 5 days treatment may be supplied under the terms of Regulation 225 <i>Supply of a medicine in this schedule is outside the terms of the emergency supply service; as such a patient may expect to have to cover the cost of any medicines supplied</i>	Not permitted <u>via this service</u>
Supply of Schedule 4-part 2 CD e.g. testosterone, somatropin	Up to a maximum of 5 days treatment may be supplied under the terms of Regulation 225	Up to a maximum of 5 days treatment may be supplied <u>via this service</u> and in line with Regulation 225
Supply of Schedule 5 CD e.g. pholcodine, codeine tablets/oral solution, dihydrocodeine tablets/oral solution, co-phenotrope, morphine oral solution 10mg/5ml	Up to a maximum of 5 days treatment may be supplied under the terms of Regulation 225	Up to a maximum of 5 days treatment may be supplied <u>via this service</u> and in line with Regulation 225

⁴ Phenobarbital Sodium for the treatment of epilepsy is an exception and may be supplied under the provisions of Regulations 224 and 225.