

Amendment to the Misuse of Drugs Regulations

The Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 have been amended so that from 31st December 2023 paramedic independent prescribers can prescribe five specified controlled drugs, therapeutic radiographer independent prescribers can prescribe six specified controlled drugs, and registered chiropodists and podiatrists can supply three codeine products. The amendments also now specify that possession of ketamine by healthcare professionals acting under patient group directions, including paramedics, is lawful.

Prescribing by paramedic independent prescribers and therapeutic radiographer independent prescribers within their individual competence and scope of practice

Paramedic independent prescribers are now able to prescribe and administer the following five controlled drugs:

- Morphine sulphate by oral administration or by injection;
- Diazepam by oral administration or by injection;
- Midazolam by oromucosal administration or by injection;
- Lorazepam by injection; and
- Codeine phosphate by oral administration.

Therapeutic radiographer independent prescribers are now able to prescribe and administer the following six controlled drugs:

- Tramadol by oral administration;
- Lorazepam by oral administration;
- Diazepam by oral administration;
- Morphine by oral administration or by injection;
- Oxycodone by oral administration; and
- Codeine by oral administration.

Guidance has been produced by the College of Paramedics and the Society of Radiographers:

- Paramedic independent prescribers - [College of Paramedics welcomes change in legislation to enable prescribing of controlled drugs](#)
- Therapeutic radiographer independent prescribers - www.sor.org/patients-medaccess and www.sor.org/radprescribers

Supply by registered chiropodists and podiatrists

Podiatrists are now able to supply the following controlled drugs:

- Co-codamol;
- Co-dydramol; and
- Codeine phosphate.

The 2023 regulations enable specified registered chiropodists and podiatrists to supply the codeine products listed above. “Specified registered chiropodists” and “specified registered podiatrists” mean the registered chiropodists and registered podiatrists specified in paragraph 11 of Part 1 and paragraph 2 of Part 4 of Schedule 17 to the 2012 Regulations (this information can be found by checking the relevant register).

Guidance produced by the Royal College of Podiatry has been updated to reflect these changes to legislation and can be found at the following link: [Changes to legislation on Codeine \(rcpod.org.uk\)](https://www.rcpod.org.uk/changes-to-legislation-on-codeine).

For more details see- [Circular 007/2023: The Misuse of Drugs \(England and Wales and Scotland\) \(Amendment\) \(No.2\) Regulations 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/circular-007-2023-the-misuse-of-drugs-in-england-wales-and-scotland-amendment-no-2-regulations-2023)

The legislation is available [here](#).