

Collection of OST Prescriptions by a Patient Representative

A patient representative can collect an OST instalment if a patient is unable to do so, e.g. if self-isolating at short notice. A new prescription is not required and details of the representative does not have to be written on the prescription by the prescriber. Appropriate records should always be maintained.

Collection by a representative known to patient

- Pharmacists are advised to obtain a letter that authorises and names the representative.
- A separate letter should be obtained for each dispensing.
- The representative should bring suitable ID.
- The pharmacist must be satisfied that the request is genuine.
- Good practice suggests that the patient should attend at least weekly, however for patients who are self-isolating, this will not be feasible.
- If the directions on the prescription indicate for doses to be supervised then the pharmacist should contact the prescriber before providing any doses to the representative. This discussion can be verbal and a record should be made.
- It is good practice to notify the Alcohol and Drug Recovery Service (ADRS) if a patient is not collecting their own medication without prior arrangement from the ADRS team.

Collection by a Healthcare Representative

- This is defined as any person authorised to collect a schedule 2CD medicine on behalf of the person named on the prescription who is under a contract of employment in a Health or Social Care profession.
- Unless already known to the pharmacist, the pharmacist should obtain the name and address of the healthcare professional and request ID. If ID is not available then it is at the discretion of the pharmacist as to whether to supply or not.
- For new prescriptions, ADRS prescribers have been asked to detail any collection arrangements on the prescription.
- For prescriptions already in the pharmacy, then the ADRS staff will additionally provide a letter of authorisation on behalf of the patient, specifying the length of time of the arrangement. The authorisation is usually signed by the patient, however during COVID 19, it will be annotated as verbal consent obtained.

It is good practice for the person collecting a schedule 2 or 3 CD to sign in the dedicated space on the reverse of the prescription, however a supply can be made if this is not signed, subject to the professional judgement of the pharmacist. Due to COVID 19 restrictions, it may not be feasible to obtain a signature.

Further information can be found in Medicines, Ethics and Practice, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, Issue 43.

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