



*NECS supports the NHS England Area Team Controlled Drugs Accountable Officer in ensuring the safe management and use of controlled drugs within the North East & Cumbria region. Based on the commonly reported incidents and the lessons learned, we aim to share good practice across the region*

## Destruction of Controlled Drugs

**We have received a number of reported incidents recently regarding dispensary staff destroying out of date schedule 2 stock without an authorised witness. On some occasions this was an error, but on others, staff weren't aware of the different requirements for the destruction of stock CDs and of patients' returned medicines.**

### Destruction of *stock* controlled drugs

#### Stock schedule 2 e.g. morphine, methylphenidate, oxycodone

- ◆ An authorised person must witness the destruction of stock schedule 2 controlled drugs
- ◆ Authorised witnesses are appointed by the Controlled Drugs Accountable Officer for the North East and Cumbria, Dr James Gossow
- ◆ To request an authorised witness for the destruction of expired and obsolete stock schedule 2 controlled drugs, please contact the Medicines Optimisation Team (see overleaf)
- ◆ Record in the CD register: the name, strength and form of the controlled drug, quantity, date of destruction, signature of the person destroying the CDs and signature of the authorised person witnessing the destruction

#### Stock schedule 3 e.g. temazepam, tramadol, and 4 (part1) e.g. diazepam, zopiclone

- ◆ Although not legally required, it is considered good practice to have a witness present (this does not need to be an authorised person), and to record the details e.g. in the patient CD medicine returns book

### Destruction of *patient returned* controlled drugs

#### Any schedule

- ◆ Consider asking a second member of staff (preferably a registered health professional) to witness the destruction
- ◆ Consider recording the destruction and disposal of returned controlled drugs in a separate patient returns book for this purpose, and record: the date of receipt of the CDs, date of destruction, signatures of the person destroying the CDs, and any witness

***Reminder to pharmacies: ensure you have enough destruction kits on site for staff to destroy patient returns, and for authorised witnesses coming to carry out a stock destruction. Also, please ensure that enough waste bins are available for them to be disposed in. See overleaf for contact numbers of suppliers of denaturing kits.***

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## Controlled Drugs: Learning from Incidents

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### Examples of suppliers of CD denaturing kits

- ◆ NHS Supply Chain  
(Product code KYA003) [www.supplychain.nhs.uk](http://www.supplychain.nhs.uk)  
Tel: 01773 724 000 Fax: 01773 724 225
- ◆ PHS Waste Management Tel: 01204 704 633 Fax: 01204 704641
- ◆ Denward Manufacturing Ltd Tel: 01245 492986 Fax: 01245 496939
- ◆ Select Environmental Services Tel: 0188 975900



Please note, this list is not exhaustive. The most commonly used kit is the 250ml size, and a pack of three can be obtained for approximately £10.

### CD balance checks during external stocktaking

We have had some incident reports of balance discrepancies following external stock checks. To reduce the chance of this happening in the future, we recommend that a member of pharmacy staff supervise the CD check, and a record of the check is recorded in the CD register. Any controls in place for CD key access should apply equally to stock takers as to any other staff. We would like to point out that the external stock check company were not acting fraudulently in any way; discrepancies have arisen when e.g. loose tablets have been dropped from open blister packs and unnoticed, or medicines have not been put back correctly into the CD cabinet.

### Licensed equivalents for special order CDs are now available

#### The following special order products have all been discontinued:

- ◆ Hydromorphone 10mg/1ml solution for injection ampoules (Special Order)
- ◆ Hydromorphone 20mg/1ml solution for injection ampoules (Special Order)
- ◆ Hydromorphone 50mg/1ml solution for injection ampoules (Special Order)

#### Instead of using these, the following licensed options, should be considered:

- ◆ Palladone 10mg/1ml solution for injection ampoules (Napp Pharmaceuticals Ltd)
- ◆ Palladone 20mg/1ml solution for injection ampoules (Napp Pharmaceuticals Ltd)
- ◆ Palladone 50mg/1ml solution for injection ampoules (Napp Pharmaceuticals Ltd)

To request an authorised witness for the destruction of stock schedule 2 controlled drugs, or if you need advice, contact a member of the Controlled Drugs Team:

Newcastle Tyne & Wear	Emma Post	0191 2172983	<a href="mailto:emma.post@nhs.net">emma.post@nhs.net</a>
Durham Darlington & Tees	Victoria Bennett	01642 745429	<a href="mailto:victoriabennett1@nhs.net">victoriabennett1@nhs.net</a>
Cumbria	Phil Utting	01228 603050	<a href="mailto:philip.utting@cumbria.NECSU.nhs.uk">philip.utting@cumbria.NECSU.nhs.uk</a>
CD Liaison Officer for all areas	Ken Dale	07919071655	<a href="mailto:ken.dale@nhs.net">ken.dale@nhs.net</a>