



THE GOVERNMENT HAS PASSED LEGISLATION

The Misuse of Drugs (Coronavirus) (Amendments Relating to the Supply of Controlled Drugs During a Pandemic etc.) Regulations 2020

Last week the Government passed legislation, which when enacted will allow pharmacists to supply Controlled Drugs to patients who have previously been prescribed them, without the need for a new prescription.

Why has this legislation been introduced?

To empower pharmacists to be able to provide the right care for people during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The legislation enables people, **under certain exceptional circumstances** (see below), to continue to receive access to the medicines they need directly from the pharmacist.

Who will be affected by the legislation?

People needing ongoing treatment for palliative care or substance misuse therapy are the people most likely to benefit from this new legislation. It means people's access to treatment can be maintained when the usual means of prescribing and accessing the medicines are unavailable.

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What are the exceptional circumstances?

The EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES include:

- the closure of GP practices or other services in an area because of COVID-19; and
- where the patient's health is at risk.

When will the legislation be actioned?

The legislation can only be activated by an announcement from a Secretary of State. It will only apply in a specific location and for a limited time. Once the issue triggering the announcement is resolved, the new measures will be withdrawn and usual practice will apply.

As care providers, what action do we need to take?

At this stage, this information sheet is purely to make you aware of the new legislation.

We will keep you updated as further details are released.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2020/468/contents/made>