OPUS
EXPERTS IN MEDICINES TRAINING

Procedure for the Handling of Controlled Drugs for Re-use During the Covid-19 Pandemic

1 — Prescription Requirements for Controlled Drugs (CDs)

- Possession of Controlled Drugs is generally only lawful when in accordance with a prescription or direction for their use from an authorised healthcare professional (e.g. GP).

- A current prescription must be in place for a Controlled Drug, whether the resident is receiving re-used Controlled Drugs or their own dispensed supply. *(Exception: exceptional circumstances whereby new emergency legislation is activated by an announcement from the Secretary of State).*

2 — Storage of Controlled Drugs

- Schedule 2 or 3 Controlled Drugs* should only be retained for re-use if they can be stored securely in line with safe custody requirements for controlled drugs.

- Store Controlled Drugs that might be re-used in a sealed container marked as 'resident/patient returns' in the CD cupboard ensuring they are segregated from any other CD medicines in the CD cupboard.

*ADDITIONAL INFO

- If unsure whether a particular Controlled Drug is Schedule 2 or Schedule 3, a list of commonly prescribed Schedule 2 and Schedules 3 CDs are in the Opus document '**Storing Controlled Drugs in Care Homes'**

- [Click here to view the document](#)

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3   Recording of Controlled Drugs

- Keep all records of Controlled Drugs in line with standard legislation and requirements.

- A separate section of the CD register must be used for re-used Controlled Drugs.

- A separate page of the CD register should be used for each re-used Controlled Drug.

- Record needs to be made in the original resident's CD medication record indicating that the balance is now 0, noting that this is because the remaining quantity has been transferred to the re-use section of the CD register.

- Refer to your existing policy and procedures for details.

4   Administration of Controlled Drugs

- Refer to your existing policy and procedures for details.