

Controlled Drug Update

Controlled Drug Prescribing Errors

Healthcare professionals have a statutory duty to report all complaints, concerns or untoward incidents involving controlled drugs to the Controlled Drugs Accountable Officer. For GP practices and GP dispensing practices operating in Shropshire and Staffordshire these reports should be sent to Brigid Stacey, Director of Nursing and Quality.

Examples of incidents that require reporting include (list is not exhaustive):

- Discrepancies in the recording and stock levels of CDs
- Patient complaints involving CDs
- Concerns with colleagues or patients
- Prescribing errors involving CDs
- Missing or lost CDs
- Medicine Management CD issues
- Dispensing errors involving CDs

If you have a concern or make an error please report it, only by sharing this information can we learn from the incidents that have occurred. Your report may also help to inform wider concerns regarding controlled drugs.

To report a controlled drug complaint, concern or incident please email england.cd_x24n@nhs.net or telephone 01138 254 630

When a controlled drug incident occurs it is good practice to complete a Significant Events Analysis and provide this as part of the controlled drug incident reporting process.

Legal Highs (Novel Psychoactive Substances)

The terms NPS, 'legal highs', 'designer drugs' and 'club drugs' are often used interchangeably and mean different things to different people. For example, some substances described as 'legal highs' may not actually be legal (and 'legal' can imply they are safe or regulated, when neither is true).

In 2013-14, nearly a fifth (19%) of the substances found in the 'legal high' drug samples collected by the Home Office's forensic early warning system in 2013-14 were controlled drugs.

Some NPS may have been legally available when first introduced, but are now controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act. These include Mephedrone, MDPV (sold as Monkey Dust) and some synthetic cannabinoids (often called spice or mamba).

Drug Name	Consumption Method	Effect
Mephedrone (Mkat)	Mephedrone can be snorted or swallowed with some reports of injecting which has caused some serious infections as a result.	Initial effects: Feeling of euphoria, alertness and being very talkative. Side effects: Over-dosing, hallucinations, rapid heartbeat, paranoia and possible mental health problems with long term use. Bad reactions: When mixed with alcohol and nose bleeds caused by 'snorting' the drug.
MDPV "Monkey Dust"	Can be snorted, smoked, taken orally or intravenously.	It has been described as causing symptoms similar to amphetamine psychosis. Including paranoia,

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		delusions and visual and auditory hallucinations and unpredictable violent moods.
Synthetic Cannabis Synthetic cannabinoids are chemicals sprayed on to inert herbal material. They mimic the action of THC, found in cannabis.	Smoked in the same way as cannabis in a spliff with tobacco, in a pipe or bong.	The effects vary greatly depending on strength, from appearing stoned to total paranoia and disorientation and violent mood swings.

Information on Legal Highs provided by Staffordshire Police