

**Clarification on the re-use of schedule 2 controlled drugs under the national Standard operating Procedure: Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) standard operating procedure: Running a medicines re-use scheme in a care home or hospice setting**

The guidance on medicines re-use in care homes was issued on 23rd April 2020 and sets out processes and procedures that care homes may implement to re-use medicines in a patient for whom the medicines were not originally prescribed.

A query has arisen from a care home regarding the legality of holding schedule 2 controlled drugs based on the guidance found in page 5 of the SOP. The query addresses the point as to whether medicines held for re-use would qualify as stock as, if they did, a care home would either need a home office license to possess and / or supply them or would need to be exempt from licensing by virtue of the fact that they are either wholly or mainly maintained (>50%) by a public authority out of public funds or by a charity or by voluntary subscriptions.

The CCG has sought legal advice on this matter and has been advised that the restrictions do apply to medicines that may be held for re-use.

Care homes are therefore advised that before designating schedule 2 controlled drugs for re-use, they must satisfy themselves that they either:

1. Hold a home office license to possess and/or supply schedule 2 controlled drugs

Or

2. Are exempt from licensing by virtue of the fact that they are either wholly or mainly maintained (>50%) by a public authority out of public funds or by a charity or by voluntary subscriptions.

For the purpose of this clarification, care homes are considered to be residential settings, providing nursing and/or personal care.

If the care home is not satisfied that either of the two points above applies to them, they should not designate schedule 2 controlled drugs for re-use under the SOP. Where such medicines have been retained for re-use, arrangements should be made for their return to the dispensing pharmacy.

For further information, contact:

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**Appendix 1: Schedule 2 controlled drugs**

These medicines include the opiates (e.g. Diamorphine, morphine, methadone, fentanyl, alfentanil, oxycodone, pethidine), major stimulants (e.g. Amphetamine), quinalobarbitone and ketamine