

## NZePS - Memo: Approval to issue Controlled Drug ePrescriptions

Due to COVID-19 authorised prescribers can issue Controlled Drug (CD) ePrescriptions as soon as the practice has completed the NZePS activation.

For Class B CDs<sup>3</sup> this means eliminating the need to hand write triplicate forms.

**Please note:** It is very important for CD ePrescriptions that the practice ensures the NZePS activation has been successful by creating some dummy prescriptions and checking with their key pharmacy that they can use the barcode at the point of dispensing.

### Key points to note

- All current rules and regulations apply for CD barcoded ePrescriptions regardless of format (i.e. electronic or paper) e.g. no forward dating of prescriptions is allowed.
- No hand-written amendments are allowed on any barcoded ePrescription (i.e. controlled drug or non-controlled drug barcoded ePrescription).
- All vendors are currently enhancing their systems to automatically print the different classes of Controlled Drugs on separate pages i.e. Class A, Class B and Class C (excluding Class C exempt or partially exempt drugs).

Non-controlled drugs and exempt or partially exempt Class C controlled drugs will print on the same prescription form.

Until all vendors have completed this enhancement if a Class A or B controlled drug appears on the same prescription form as a Class C or a non-controlled drug, the medicines can be dispensed BUT the prescription will need to be a printed prescription and have a wet ink signature to meet the requirements for a legal prescription for Class A, B or C (excluding exempt or partially exempt) controlled drugs.

- If a signed barcoded prescription for CDs (Class A, B and C (with the exception of Class C exempt or partially exempt controlled drugs) is either faxed or scanned and emailed to the pharmacy the signed original is required to be sent to the pharmacy within the required timeframe of 2 working days.
- Signature Exempt Prescriptions do NOT apply for ALL CDs (Class A, B and C -with the exception of Class C exempt or partially exempt controlled drugs).
- If a patient presents with a request to reissue a barcoded prescription (for whatever reason) then: Use the '**Reprint**' function as this will generate a prescription with the **same barcode number and date as the original**, ensuring it can only be dispensed once.

Please see further information on next page

**Table. Summary of requirements for prescriptions generated through the NZePS**

	<b>Medicine classification</b>	<b>Is an ink signature required on an electronic copy received by fax or email?</b>	<b>Is an original hardcopy prescription required</b>
<b>NZePS downloaded prescription</b>	Class A, Class B <sup>1</sup> and Class C <sup>2</sup> (except exempt or partially exempt) controlled drugs	Yes	Yes
	Exempt or partially exempt Class C <sup>3</sup> controlled drugs	No	No
	Prescription medicine (non-controlled drugs)	No	No

### **Methadone**

If prescribers are authorised to prescribe methadone under the opioid substitution therapy (OST) programme please see example script and information in the Getting Started Guide (link below). This will show how the script needs to be completed to avoid any problem at the pharmacy end.

Link to the Getting Started Guide is below - click on 'Setting up and Using NZePS' and then found under ' Being set up for and using NZePS'

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/ehealth/other-ehealth-initiatives/emedicines/new-zealand-eprescription-service>

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1. Class B controlled drugs: eg, morphine, oxycodone, fentanyl, methadone
  2. Class C controlled drugs: eg, benzodiazepines, buprenorphine with naloxone, codeine, dihydrocodeine, phenobarbitone (see Appendix 1)
  3. Class C exempt or partially exempt controlled drugs: pholcodine, paracetamol and codeine combination preparations, Gee's Linctus (see Appendix 2)

## **Appendix 1**

### **Class C controlled drugs (NOT exempt or partially exempt)**

Prescriptions for the following list of medicines require the prescriber signature and original prescription sent to the pharmacy (Misuse of Drugs Regulations 1977).

<b>Class C Controlled Drugs (except Class C5)</b>		
<b>Generic name</b>	<b>Brand and form</b>	<b>Strength available</b>

Buprenorphine	Buprenorphine Naloxone BNM sublingual tablet	2 mg with naloxone 0.5 mg 8 mg with naloxone 2 mg
Codeine	Tablet	15 mg, 30 mg, 60 mg
Dihydrocodeine	DHC Continus long-acting tablet	60 mg
Phenobarbitone	Tablet Max Health injection Aspen injection	15 mg, 30mg 200 mg/mL 200 mg/mL
<b>Benzodiazepines (Class C5 Controlled Drug)</b>		
<b>Generic name</b>	<b>Brand and form</b>	<b>Strength available</b>
Alprazolam	Xanax tablet  Arrow-Alprazolam tablet	250 microgram, 500 microgram, 1 mg  250 microgram, 500 microgram, 1 mg, 2 mg
Clobazam	Frisium tablet	10 mg
Clonazepam	Paxam tablet Rivotril oral drops Rivotril injection	500 microgram, 2 mg 2.5 mg/mL 1 mg/mL
Diazepam	Arrow-Diazepam tablet Stesolid rectal tube Hospira injection	2 mg, 5 mg 5 mg, 10 mg 5 mg/mL
Lorazepam	Ativan tablet	1 mg, 2.5 mg
Midazolam	Midazolam-Claris injection Pfizer injection	1 mg/mL, 5 mg/mL 1 mg/mL, 5 mg/mL
Nitrazepam	Nitrados tablet	5 mg
Oxazepam	Ox-Pam tablet	10 mg, 15 mg
Phentermine	Duromine capsule Metermine capsule	15 mg, 30 mg 15 mg, 30 mg
Temazepam	Normison tablet	10 mg
Triazolam	Hypam tablet	125 microgram, 250 microgram

## Appendix 2

### Class C controlled drugs (that ARE exempt or partially exempt)

Prescriptions for the following list of medicines **DO NOT** require the prescriber signature and original prescription sent to the pharmacy (Misuse of Drugs Regulations 1977).

<b>Class C (exempt and partially exempt) C controlled drugs</b>
Gee's Linctus
paracetamol and codeine combination preparations
pholcodine

