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 CDs¹ this means eliminating the need to hand write triplicate forms.

**Please note**: It is very important for CD ePrescriptions that the practice ensures the activation has been successful by creating some dummy prescriptions and checking with their key pharmacy that they can read the barcodes and successfully scan and download the ePrescriptions from the NZePS broker.

CD ePrescriptions must be scanned and downloaded from NZePS.

**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).

- NZePS CD items must be printed on a separate prescription form (with separate barcode) to non-controlled drugs except where the ingredients are used in the making of syringes and clear instructions stipulate the medicines to be included in the syringe, i.e. Class C² items must be on a separate form to Class B items. The exception being Class C exempt or partially exempt drugs³, as defined by the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 1977. These can be on the same prescription form as non-controlled drugs.

- Multiple CD items of the same class can be printed on the same prescription form. If there are too many CD items of the same class to fit on one page then multiple pages will be printed. All pages will have the same barcode number and are treated as one prescription.

- If a signed barcoded prescription for CDs (Class A, B and C (except 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 - except 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NZePS downloaded prescription</th>
<th>Medicine classification</th>
<th>Is an ink signature required on an electronic copy received by fax or email?</th>
<th>Is an original hardcopy prescription required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prescription medicine (non-controlled drugs)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exempt or partially exempt Class C³ controlled drugs</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class A, Class B¹ and Class C² (except exempt or partially exempt) controlled drugs</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 ‘Downloads’


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