HOW TO WRITE A CONTROLLED DRUG PRESCRIPTION

It is a criminal offence for a practitioner to issue a prescription or a Schedule 2 or 3 Controlled Drug, or for a pharmacist to dispense it, unless it complies with the following requirements.

1. Name and Address.

3. Specify the form of the preparation. The abbreviation t or c as an expression of form is NOT acceptable, whereas tabs or caps is acceptable.

2. Specify the dose to be taken. The Home Office is of the opinion that dose ‘to be taken as directed’ or ‘to be taken when required’ is NOT acceptable. However, a dosage of ‘One to be taken as directed/when required’ is acceptable.

4. Where appropriate give the strength of the preparation. Where more than one strength is available, then the strength must be specified on the prescription. If the prescriber orders a strength of Controlled Drug that does not exist, the prescription must be amended to specify the total quantity of Controlled Drug in terms of the available strength.

5. Enter either the total quantity (in BOTH words and figures) of the preparation or the number (in BOTH words and figures) of dosage units supplied. We enforce the view of the Home Office that where a Controlled Drug is available in a dosage unit, the total quantity on a prescription should be expressed in terms of the number of dosage units e.g. tablets, capsules, suppositories. Specify the total number required in words and figures.

6. Signed in the prescribers’ OWN HANDWRITING and dated.