

Controlled Drugs

[Clinicalskills.net](https://www.clinicalskills.net)

Management of controlled drugs Part 1: Legal aspects and safe handling

Management of controlled drugs Part 2: Prescription and administration

Controlled drugs are regulated by the **Misuse of Drugs 1971** (with a number of amendments) and the **Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001**. All staff handling any controlled drugs must ensure they are working within these legislative processes.

The Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 split the controlled drugs into 5 Schedules.

- **Schedule 1:** No recognised medicinal use.
- **Schedule 2:** The most stringent requirements are on these drugs including safe-custody (storage within a CD cabinet) and record-keeping (within a CD register).
- **Schedule 3:** These have safe-custody requirements but some drugs are exempt from this. They do not require to be written in the CD register, although within some services' Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) these may be recorded. This will be service-specific and must be within their SOP.

- **Schedule 4:** There are less controls with these and do not need to be kept within the CD cabinet, nor do they require recording within the CD register.
- **Schedule 5:** These have the fewer controls and tend to be lower strengths.

 Sort the following drugs into the correct Schedule.

Schedule 2

Morphine ampules

Fentanyl patches

Oxycodone

Morphine solution 20mg/ml
(eg. Oramorph Concentrated
solution 20mg/ml)

Schedule 3

Buprenorphine patches

Tramadol

Midazolam

Schedule 4

Diazepam

Testosterone

Schedule 5

Morphine solution 10mg/5ml
(eg. Oramorph 10mg/5ml)

Co-codamol

All staff must read and follow the Controlled Drug Policy available on [Sirona's Intranet](#).

All staff must read their service **Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)** relating to Controlled Drugs - please see your manager to access this.

Controlled Drug destruction processes will depend on the service in which you work.

Ensure you have read the CD policy and SOP for information. It is useful to note that all Schedule 2, 3 and 4 (part 1) CDs must be 'denatured' prior to disposal regardless of the process of who needs to be present. Denaturing of CDs means 'rendering irretrievable' and this will depend on the service as to how this is done.

The Sirona care & health **Controlled Drug Accountable Officer (CDAO)** is the Medical Director.

Their responsibility is to ensure that all controlled drugs are managed safely and that any incidents or concerns are reported and investigated accordingly. They are also part of a Local Intelligence Network (LIN) consisting of CDAOs from all local organisations where they share intelligence and learning around CDs.

All CD incidents and concerns must be recorded via Ulysses and will be investigated accordingly.

This is to ensure we can try and prevent similar incidents and learn from things when they go wrong.

There are useful training sessions on [Clinicalskills.net](https://www.clinicalskills.net) which all nurses can complete.