

Controlled drugs: safe use and management overview

NICE Pathways bring together everything NICE says on a topic in an interactive flowchart. NICE Pathways are interactive and designed to be used online.

They are updated regularly as new NICE guidance is published. To view the latest version of this NICE Pathway see:

<http://pathways.nice.org.uk/pathways/controlled-drugs-safe-use-and-management>

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This document contains a single flowchart and uses numbering to link the boxes to the associated recommendations.



1 Safe use and management of controlled drugs

No additional information

2 Organisations

[See Controlled drugs: safe use and management / Controlled drugs: organisations](#)

3 Health professionals

[See Controlled drugs: safe use and management / Controlled drugs: processes and procedures for health professionals](#)

4 NHS England lead controlled drugs accountable officers

[NHS England lead controlled drugs accountable officers \[See page 5\]](#) should:

- work with [local intelligence networks \[See page 5\]](#) in other areas when needed
- identify and manage poor engagement
- consider including other relevant local organisations (such as substance misuse, palliative care and out-of-hours services, and secure environments) in the wider network part of the local intelligence network.

NHS England lead controlled drugs accountable officers should:

- provide feedback (such as actions from controlled drugs related incidents and occurrence reports) to [controlled drugs accountable officers \[See page 5\]](#)
- share learning with their controlled drugs accountable officers, including trends or significant incidents.

NHS England lead controlled drugs accountable officers should consider identifying trends in incidents reported and barriers to reporting.

5 Non-healthcare settings

Non-healthcare settings, such as schools, should have systems and processes in place for storing, recording and transporting controlled drugs that belong to a person who is under the

organisation's supervision.

6 See what NICE says on patient experience

[See Patient experience in adult NHS services](#)

A person (defined as fit, proper and suitably experienced) who is appointed to ensure that systems for the safe management and use of controlled drugs are secure within their own organisation or in those they have a contract with. See [Regulation 8](#) of the 2013 Regulations for more information.

A local intelligence network is drawn from representatives of designated and responsible bodies. It is for the NHS England lead controlled drug accountable officer to determine the number and membership of local intelligence networks appropriate to their area. Local intelligence network members have certain duties and functions set out in [Regulation 14](#), [Regulation 15](#) and [Regulation 16](#) of the 2013 Regulations. These include a duty to cooperate with other local intelligence network members in identifying cases where action may be appropriate.

[Regulation 8](#) of the 2013 Regulations, places a requirement on NHS England to nominate or appoint a fit, proper and suitably experienced person to be NHS England's lead controlled drugs accountable officer for each of its local intelligence network areas. A lead controlled drugs accountable officer can be responsible for one or more local intelligence network areas.

Sources

[Controlled drugs: safe use and management](#) (2016) NICE guideline NG46

Your responsibility

Guidelines

The recommendations in this guideline represent the view of NICE, arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. When exercising their judgement, professionals and practitioners are expected to take this guideline fully into account, alongside the individual needs, preferences and values of their patients or the people using their service. It is not mandatory to apply the recommendations, and the guideline does not override the responsibility to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual, in consultation with them and their families and carers or guardian.

Local commissioners and providers of healthcare have a responsibility to enable the guideline to be applied when individual professionals and people using services wish to use it. They

should do so in the context of local and national priorities for funding and developing services, and in light of their duties to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity and to reduce health inequalities. Nothing in this guideline should be interpreted in a way that would be inconsistent with complying with those duties.

Commissioners and providers have a responsibility to promote an environmentally sustainable health and care system and should assess and reduce the environmental impact of implementing NICE recommendations wherever possible.

Technology appraisals

The recommendations in this interactive flowchart represent the view of NICE, arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. When exercising their judgement, health professionals are expected to take these recommendations fully into account, alongside the individual needs, preferences and values of their patients. The application of the recommendations in this interactive flowchart is at the discretion of health professionals and their individual patients and do not override the responsibility of healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or their carer or guardian.

Commissioners and/or providers have a responsibility to provide the funding required to enable the recommendations to be applied when individual health professionals and their patients wish to use it, in accordance with the NHS Constitution. They should do so in light of their duties to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity and to reduce health inequalities.

Commissioners and providers have a responsibility to promote an environmentally sustainable health and care system and should assess and reduce the environmental impact of implementing NICE recommendations wherever possible.

Medical technologies guidance, diagnostics guidance and interventional procedures guidance

The recommendations in this interactive flowchart represent the view of NICE, arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. When exercising their judgement, healthcare professionals are expected to take these recommendations fully into account. However, the

interactive flowchart does not override the individual responsibility of healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer.

Commissioners and/or providers have a responsibility to implement the recommendations, in their local context, in light of their duties to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations. Nothing in this interactive flowchart should be interpreted in a way that would be inconsistent with compliance with those duties.

Commissioners and providers have a responsibility to promote an environmentally sustainable health and care system and should assess and reduce the environmental impact of implementing NICE recommendations wherever possible.