

## Controlled drugs on repeat templates

**Thurrock CCG, and Basildon and Brentwood CCG do not support Controlled Drugs (CDs) being added to repeat templates.**

It is recommended by NHS England and the Department of Health that CDs must not be kept on the repeat template.

NICE NG46 (section 1.5) deals with CD prescribing, and prescribers are advised to:

- Check the patient's current clinical needs
- Ask about and take into account any existing supplies the patient has
- Prescribe enough of a controlled drug to meet the patient's clinical needs for no more than 30 days
- When prescribing a repeat prescription of a controlled drug for treating a long term condition in primary care, take into account the controlled drug and the patient's individual circumstances to determine the frequency of review for further repeat prescriptions

Therefore it is not appropriate for CDs to be added or kept on a repeat template as CDs should be reviewed by the prescriber each time they are prescribed and the prescriber would need access to the clinical record in order to achieve this.

However, should the practice have an up to date internal policy / protocol / standard operating procedure (SOP) for managing repeats which includes a section on how to manage patients on repeat CDs, then the decision to add CDs to a repeat template, would be at the discretion of the prescriber and should only be made on an individual patient basis.

The internal policy / protocol / SOP for managing repeat CDs must include:

- How to manage patients on repeat CDs
- Which CDs would be appropriate to add to a repeat template, please note, **hypnotics / Z drugs, benzodiazepines and high dose opioids should never be put on repeat templates**
- Who can authorise repeat prescriptions
- How to manage patients who over order, order early, get interim prescriptions, see different prescribers or in different settings (OOH / NHS111 / IC24 / A&E)
- How to record the reason for allowing repeat CDs on the patients record
- That all doses are complete with a read coded indication before re-issuing
- How to monitor if the patient is actually taking their prescribed CDs
- How to create a flag on the patients notes if a CD goes onto a repeat template to state '*patient has X drug on repeat and to check when this was last issued*', this will then flag to all clinicians who access the patient record (including OOH / NHS111 / IC24 / A&E etc)
- That the review dates and issue duration is completed and is correct
- The frequency of medication reviews
- What to do if there are concerns (i.e. contact CDAO)

Unless all of the above criteria is fulfilled, the CCG would strongly recommend the good practice advice to remove all CDs from repeat templates.

Providers commissioned to provide services on behalf of Thurrock CCG and Basildon and Brentwood CCG are reminded that they are required to follow the local joint formulary and prescribing guidance, or relevant Medicines Management agreement.

<b>Position Statement No.</b>	58
<b>Title</b>	Controlled Drugs on repeat templates
<b>References</b>	<a href="https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng46/resources/controlled-drugs-safe-use-and-management-pdf-1837456188613">https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng46/resources/controlled-drugs-safe-use-and-management-pdf-1837456188613</a>
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