

Patient Safety ALERT – Checking and Administering Controlled Drugs

This alert provides direction for the checking and administering of Controlled Drugs at the Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust (NDHT).

In line with NMC (2010) recommendations, the second signatory for controlled drugs should be another healthcare professional (registered nurse, doctor, pharmacist) or student nurse or student midwife. It is expected that all individuals working within the secondary care and community hospital setting adhere to this recommendation.

Within these settings where, in exceptional circumstances, a registered health care professional is not readily available to be the second signatory, the first signatory MUST contact either the Clinical Matron or the Duty Site Manager, who will ensure that they either act as the second signatory themselves or designate another registered healthcare professional to do so.

The direction in this alert will take effect immediately and remain in place until further consideration and final ratification by the Drugs and Therapeutics Committee.

References:

Standards for medicines management (NMC 2010)

NDHT Medicines Policy 2015

NDHT Controlled Drugs (CDs) Ordering, Receipt & Stock Management SOP 2015

NPSA/2007/19. Promoting safer measurement and administration of liquid medicines via oral and other enteral routes

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION:

- 1. Controlled drugs should be checked and administered by two competent registered health care professionals in the secondary care setting**
- 2. Make sure stocks of oral/enteral syringes are available in all clinical areas that may need to measure and administer oral liquid medicines in a syringe**