



Law and Ethics

MEP – further reading




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Pharmaceutical Care

A philosophy of practice that focuses the attitudes, behaviours, commitments, concerns, ethics, functions, knowledge, responsibilities and skills of the pharmacist with the goal of achieving definite therapeutic outcomes toward patient health and quality of life.

Involves direct one to one interaction with the patient as well as collaboration with other healthcare professionals who play a part in the patient's care in order to identify and evaluate possible problems and develop situations that best fit the personal needs of the individual e.g. *personalised care plans*




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Professional and Legal Issues

POM




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Assembled (pre-packed) medicines

This is when bulk containers are broken down into smaller quantities. The re-packed medicine must be labelled with:

- Name of medicine
- Quantity
- Ingredients
- Handling & Storage requirements
- Expiry date
- Batch number




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Assembly and pre-packing medicines

The assembly or pre-packing of medicines by a pharmacy to be supplied to a separate legal entity requires an appropriate licence from the MHRA

- Manufacturer's/importer's licence (MIA) or
- Manufacturer 'specials' license (MS)




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Administration of POMs

- No one may administer a parenteral POM other than to himself, unless he is an appropriate practitioner or acting in accordance with the directions of an appropriate practitioner
- Legislation does not restrict administration of non-parenteral POMs but this should only be done with the authority of a prescription, PSD or PGD



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Exemptions to administration of POM

- Administration for the purpose of saving a life in an **emergency**
- Administration of **smallpox vaccine**
- Administration by **specific classes of persons** (e.g. midwives and paramedics)
- Administration of **POMs in hospital**

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Written Directions to Supply (in hospitals)

- Patient Specific Directions (PSDs)
- This allows a hospital to sell or supply a POM against a specific "written direction" e.g. against a patient's bed card or notes
- The directions within an inpatient chart can be transcribed onto an order form for the pharmacy to prepare discharge ("take home") medicines under the authority of the original written direction.

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Optometrists and podiatrists

- Optometrists and podiatrists cannot authorise supplies of POMs by writing prescriptions unless they are additionally qualified as **independent or supplementary prescribers**
- Pharmacists working in a registered pharmacy can supply **certain** POMs directly to patients in accordance with a **signed order** from any registered optometrist or podiatrist

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Optometrists

Provided it is in the course of their professional practice, registered optometrists may sell or supply GSL or P medicines to a patient.

Those optometrists who have undergone additional training and are accredited by the General Optical Council ('**additional supply optometrists**') will be able to sell, supply or write an order for an extended range of medicines.

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Podiatrists

- Provided that the medicine is pre-packed and supply is made in the course of their professional practice, a registered podiatrist can sell or supply any GSL medicine and certain P or POM medicines.
- Provided that the podiatrist holds a certificate of competence in the use of analgesics and that where the medicine includes a combination of substances they have not been combined by the podiatrist themselves, certain POMs can be administered by the podiatrist

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Professional and Legal Issues

Other

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Zero powered contact lenses

- These are coloured contact lenses used purely for cosmetic purposes.
- Pharmacists are **not advised** to sell these unless under **supervision of an optician**, dispensing optician or doctor.
- If they do sell them then it should be within The **Opticians Act 1989**.



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Homeopathic & Herbal remedies

- Pharmacists should help patients distinguish the difference between homeopathic ('like treat like') therapy and herbal products (= plant-derived).
- There is no clinical evidence for the effects of homeopathic products, and for this reason pharmacists cannot endorse this as a form of treatment, especially for serious conditions.



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Charitable donations

- Guidance has been published for any pharmacist who wishes to donate medicines.
- WHO encourages donating standardised health kit medicines in the acute stage of an emergency, then the donation of money to purchase essential medicines following the acute stage.
- WHO guidelines currently advise against donating patient returns.



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PILs and Child-resistant Caps

- Patient Information Leaflets **MUST ALWAYS** be supplied for all relevant medicinal products
- It is good practice to sell or supply medicines for children in containers which are opaque or dark tinted and child resistant unless:
 - The patient, carer or representative (who is over 16 yrs of age) specifically requests a packaging that is not child-resistant
 - it is not reasonably practicable e.g. original container is not child-resistant and there are reasons why the medicine should remain in the original container



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Medical Devices

Medical Devices Regulations 2002: mandatory CE marking on all medical devices.

The **CE marking** means that a manufacturer claims that his device is:

- Safe
- Performs as claimed
- Is fit for its intended purpose



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Consumer Protection

Pertains to the protection of consumers of pharmacy related products and services

The aim of the Consumer Protection Act 1987 is to help safeguard the consumer from products that do not reach a reasonable level of safety. This includes the concept of 'product liability' which gives people the right to sue for damages when injured by defective products

The official legislation can be accessed at:
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1987/43>



