

Controlled Drugs Prescribing Policy

The Robert Street Practice

Purpose

This policy outlines the practice approach to the safe prescribing and management of **controlled drugs**, ensuring compliance with legal requirements and best clinical practice. It also sets clear expectations for patients prescribed these medications.

Scope

This policy applies to:

- All clinicians involved in prescribing controlled drugs
 - All patients receiving controlled drug prescriptions from the practice
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Policy Statement

Controlled drugs are subject to **strict legal and clinical controls** due to their potential for misuse, dependence, and harm.

The Robert Street Practice is committed to:

- Prescribing these medications **safely and appropriately**
 - Working in line with **national guidance and local prescribing policies**
 - Supporting patients to use medication responsibly
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Prescribing Principles

1. Prescription Timing

- Controlled drug prescriptions will only be issued at **agreed intervals**
- **Early requests will not be approved** unless there are exceptional and **verifiable circumstances**

2. Medication Management

- Patients are responsible for:
 - Taking medication **as prescribed**
 - Ensuring medication is **stored securely**
 - **Lost, damaged, or stolen medication will not be replaced**
 - **A crime reference number is not accepted as verified evidence**
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3. Communication and Behaviour

- All interactions with staff must remain:
 - Courteous
 - Respectful
 - The following behaviours are **not acceptable**:
 - Aggression
 - Intimidation
 - Abusive language (in person, by phone, or online)
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4. Review and Monitoring

- Patients prescribed controlled drugs will be subject to:
 - Regular **medication reviews**
 - Ongoing **clinical monitoring**
 - This may include:
 - Shared care arrangements
 - Liaison with other healthcare services
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Non-Compliance

Failure to adhere to this policy may result in:

- Changes to prescribing arrangements
 - Restriction or discontinuation of medication
 - In serious cases, **review of patient registration with the practice**
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Practice Commitment

The Robert Street Practice is committed to:

- Providing **safe, effective, and fair care**
 - Supporting patients to manage their medication appropriately
 - Treating all patients with **respect and dignity**
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Further Information

Patients with concerns about their medication or this policy are encouraged to **contact the practice** to discuss further.