NHS Grampian Policy For Ordering, Storing And Returning High Strength Diamorphine, Morphine And Oxycodone Injections In Hospitals

Co-ordinators:
Lead Pharmacist, Controlled Drug Team

Consultation Group:
See relevant page in the Policy

Approver:
Medicine Guidelines and Policies Group

Signature:

Signature:

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Executive Sign-Off
This document has been endorsed by the Director of Pharmacy and Medicines Management, Controlled Drug Accountable Officer

Signature:
Title: NHS Grampian Policy For Ordering, Storing And Returning High Strength Diamorphine, Morphine And Oxycodone Injections In Hospitals

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Replaces: NHSG/Policy/HDmorph/MGPG651, Version 2

Across NHS Boards

Organisation Wide

Yes

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Subject Policies

Key word(s): Policy, high dose, strength, diamorphine, morphine, oxycodone, injection, CDs, controlled drugs

Document application: NHS Grampian Hospitals

Purpose: To promote the safe management and use of high strength diamorphine, morphine and oxycodone injections, whilst ensuring the drugs are available for patients who require them.

Responsibilities for implementation:

Organisational: Chief Executive and Management Teams

Corporate: Senior Managers

Departmental: Heads of Service/Clinical Leads

Area: Line Managers

Hospital/Interface services:

Operational Management Unit: Assistant General Managers and Group Clinical Directors

Unit Operational Managers

Policy statement: It is the responsibility of all staff to ensure that they are working to the most up to date and relevant policies, protocols and procedures.

Review: This policy will be reviewed at least every three years or sooner if current treatment recommendations change.
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Responsible for review of this document: Lead Pharmacist, Controlled Drugs Team

Responsible for ensuring registration of this document on the NHS Grampian Information/ Document Silo: Lead Pharmacist, Controlled Drugs Team

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Responsible for disseminating document as per distribution list: Lead Pharmacist, Controlled Drugs Team

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<td>Change of title to specify ‘Hospitals’.</td>
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<td>Addition of form to order requirements.</td>
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<td>Remove information regarding risk assessment.</td>
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<td>Additional information regarding documentation added.</td>
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1. **Introduction**

There have been a number of reports of deaths and harm due to the administration of high strength controlled drugs (CDs) diamorphine, morphine or oxycodone injections to opioid naive patients. The National Patient Safety Agency issued a safer practice notice\(^1\) on this subject.

2. **Objectives**

This policy aims to promote the safe use, ordering and storage of high strength CDs diamorphine, morphine and oxycodone injections whilst ensuring their availability for patients who require them. All wards/departments/ dispensaries must follow this policy when ordering, storing or returning high strength diamorphine, morphine and oxycodone injections.

3. **Definitions**

Ampoules of diamorphine 30mg or greater, morphine injections of 30mg/mL or greater and oxycodone injections 50mg/mL are considered high strength.\(^1\,3\)

Morphine 1mg/mL 50mL vials do not have to be ordered using this policy, as they do not fall within the definition of high strength morphine.

4. **Locations**

High strength ampoules can be held as stock at the following locations:

- Roxburghe House
- Ward 114, ARI
- Ward 201, ICU, ARI
- Ward 503, HDU
- Ward 506, HDU
- Labour Theatre, AMH
- Theatre, RACH
- HDU, RACH
- Medical/Surgical Ward, RACH

- Community Hospitals Aberdeenshire:
  - Aboyne – General
  - Chalmers - GP Ward (Banff)
Community Hospitals Moray:
- Fleming Hospital (Aberlour)
- Leanchoil Hospital - General Ward (Forres)
- Seafield Hospital - General and Muirton Ward (Buckie)
- Stephen Hospital (Dufftown)
- Turner Memorial Hospital (Keith)

Dr Gray's, Ward 5

NHS Grampian Hospital Dispensaries

GMED, Emergency Care Centre, Aberdeen

Other areas will not routinely stock high strength diamorphine, morphine or oxycodone injection and should only order and hold as determined by individual patient requirements.

5. Ordering Of High Strength Diamorphine, Morphine Or Oxycodone Injections

5.1 The name, form, strength and quantity of the drug required must be completed in the controlled drug order book in accordance with the NHS Grampian Policy and Procedure For The Safe Management Of Controlled Drugs In Hospitals [http://intranet.grampian.scot.nhs.uk/foi/files/Policy_CDs_Hospitals.pdf](http://intranet.grampian.scot.nhs.uk/foi/files/Policy_CDs_Hospitals.pdf)

5.2 The controlled drug order book should be sent to the Pharmacy Department. Where there is no Pharmacy Department on site the CD order (white form) should be faxed to the Pharmacy Department at ARI (01224 54422). The ward/department should then phone the Pharmacy Department (01224 53227) to confirm receipt of the faxed order.

5.3 The person placing the order must ensure that naloxone injection is available on the ward/department. If no naloxone is available, an order must be placed at the same time as the order for the high strength injection, using the usual ordering process.

5.4 The high strength injection will be supplied from the Pharmacy Department in a plastic sealable, transparent red CD bag. These bags are designed specifically for high strength CDs and state ‘Warning: Contains High Dose Opioid’.
6. **Out Of Hours/Urgent Supplies**

Wards/departments (not listed in Section 4) requiring high strength diamorphine, morphine or oxycodone injection urgently may transfer an appropriate quantity from another ward in the hospital. The process detailed in the NHS Grampian Policy and Procedure For The Safe Management Of Controlled Drugs In Hospitals for transfer of CDs between wards/departments must be followed.

Ampoules must only be transported in the original container and must be supplied in a red CD bag.

If the ward/department requires ongoing supplies a CD order should be placed with pharmacy at the earliest opportunity.

7. **Storage Of High Strength Diamorphine, Morphine and Oxycodone Injections**

7.1 High strength diamorphine, morphine and oxycodone injections **must** be stored in the red CD bag in which they were supplied in the controlled drug cupboard or in a designated area of the controlled drug cupboard for the storage of high strength injections only.

7.2 Wards/departments that stock high strength diamorphine, morphine and oxycodone injection should hold a small supply of red CD bags. Red CD bags can be requested from the Pharmacy Department.

8. **Returning High Strength Diamorphine, Morphine or Oxycodone Injections**

High strength diamorphine, morphine or oxycodone injections **must** be returned to pharmacy from wards that are not authorised to keep these as stock medicines when no longer required.

8.1 When the patient for whom the high strength diamorphine, morphine or oxycodone injection was ordered no longer requires the medication, the ward pharmacist **must** be notified at the first opportunity within normal pharmacy working hours to arrange return to pharmacy.

8.2 The ward pharmacist or pharmacy technician, along with registered nurse/midwife/ODP should remove the medication from the controlled drug cupboard on their next visit to the ward and return it to the pharmacy department in accordance with the NHS Grampian Policy and Procedure For The Safe Management Of Controlled Drugs In Hospitals. The drug **must** be returned in the red CD bag, accompanied by a green pharmacy order sheet (ZOP101) detailing the drugs being returned.

8.3 Community Hospitals should pre-notify the distribution section of ARI Pharmacy Department that high strength diamorphine, morphine or oxycodone injection is being returned in the ward drug box. The drug **must** be returned in a red
CD bag, accompanied by a green pharmacy order sheet (ZOP101) detailing the drugs being returned. This should be sent to pharmacy in the locked ward drug box.

9. **Record Keeping**

Records **must** be maintained in the CD register in accordance with the NHS Grampian Policy and Procedure For The Safe Management Of Controlled Drugs In Hospitals.

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**References**

1) **Safer practice notice.**  

2) **Rapid Response Report.**  
   Reducing Dosing Errors with Opiate Medicines NPSA. 2008/RRR05

3) **NHS Grampian Policy and Procedure For The Safe Management Of Controlled Drugs In Hospitals.** (ADD LINK)

4) **NHSG Formulary Group.**  
   Oxycodone injection 50mg/mL. December 2010.