



The Role of the Accountable Officer for Controlled Drugs



Background

- 4th Shipman Inquiry Report on '*The Regulation of Controlled Drugs in the Community*' recommended strengthened governance arrangements
- DH issued guidance in 2006 for the '*Safer Management of Controlled Drugs*' to strengthen governance



Whose Responsibility?

All healthcare organisations are accountable for:

- Ensuring the safe and effective use of CDs
- Monitoring the use and management of CDs



Strengthened Governance

- Statutory duty for PCTs, NHS Trusts, Foundation and Independent Hospitals to identify an **Accountable Officer**
- Statutory duty of **collaboration** on healthcare organisations, police, social service authorities and relevant inspectorates



Accountable Officer

- Should be a senior executive with an appropriate professional qualification
- Ensures monitoring arrangements are in place for the management and use of CDs
- Establishes mechanisms for sharing intelligence and joint action in case of urgency



Accountable Officer contd

- Ensures clear routes are available for any health professional, patient or member of the general public to raise matters of concern
- Establishes a mechanism for further investigation of causes of concern
- Determines whether a targeted inspection is required and who should be involved



Accountable Officer contd

- Determines remedial action
- Ensures remedial action is followed through
- Encourages good practice in the management of CDs



PCT Accountable Officer

- Sets up and operates a local intelligence network (LIN)
- Determines when an Incident Panel should be set up
- Ensures a formal CD review is carried out annually of each primary care provider in contract with the PCT



PCT Accountable Officer contd

- Ensures inspection of arrangements for handling CDs is carried out at a random sample of practices and OOH services
- Authorises appropriate witnesses for the destruction of CDs



Routine monitoring

- Self-assessment (pharmacists send to RPSGB; GPs to AO at PCT)
- Inspections
 - Community pharmacies: RPSGB inspector (CDs now form part of inspection)
 - GP practices: PCT AO or representative
- Formal annual review of independent contractors by PCT AO – may form part of existing clinical governance reviews
- Role of police controlled drugs inspector
 - Have the power of entry of community pharmacies and GP surgeries



Routine inspection of pharmacies

- RPSGB inspection
 - Society inspectors to include inspection of CDs in their routine inspections of community pharmacies
- Accountable Officer and Police Officers
 - Now have the power to enter and inspect pharmacy premises.



LINs

These local intelligence networks bring together organisations from the NHS and independent health and social care sectors, and other regulators including the Healthcare Commission, the Commission for Social Care Inspection, the RPSGB, NHS counter fraud services and the Police.



RPSGB Inspector

Inspector;

- has responsibility for pharmacies
- reports to the PCT Accountable Officer after every pharmacy visit to give the PCT assurance that regulations are being implemented

PCT Accountable Officer collates the information from the Inspector for the Healthcare Commission on an annual basis



The Healthcare Commission

The **Healthcare Commission** oversees the regulation of the management of CDs in England by:

- assessing and overseeing CD management, using information submitted by all NHS Trusts
- monitoring the management of CDs by independent healthcare providers



The Healthcare Commission contd

- reporting to Government on how safely these organisations manage CDs
- leading a national intelligence group to analyse themes and trends and publishing its findings annually
- taking part in LINs