

CONTROLLED DRUGS NEWSLETTER

SHARING GOOD PRACTICE IN DEVON, CORNWALL AND THE
ISLES OF SCILLY

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RECLASSIFICATION OF TRAMADOL & OTHER DRUGS

Control of NBOMe and Benzofuran Compounds, Lisdexamfetamine, Tramadol, Zaleplon, Zopiclone and reclassification of Ketamine

The Parliamentary Order to control and reclassify these drugs under the 1971 Act has been approved by both House of Parliament and was made by the Privy Council on 28th April 2014. The 2014 Order (**SI 2014/1106**) will come into force on **10th June 2014** and is available at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2014/1106/contents/made>.

The 2014 Order classifies:

- NBOMe compounds, via generic definition, as Class A drugs,
- Benzofuran compounds, via generic definition, as Class B drugs,
- lisdexamfetamine as a Class B drug,
- tramadol as a Class C drug, and
- zopiclone and zaleplon as Class C drugs.
- ketamine as a Class B drug under the 1971 Act.

Two statutory instruments will be laid in Parliament shortly to come into force on the same day as the 2014 Order.

- the NBOMe and Benzofuran compounds (advertised for sale as 'legal highs') will be listed in Schedule 1 to the 2001 Regulations. This means they can only be possessed or supplied etc under a Home Office licence for research of other special purpose,
- lisdexamfetamine (a drug which converts to dexamphetamine when administered orally and used for ADHD in adults) will be listed in Schedule 2 alongside dexamphetamine,
- tramadol will be listed in Schedule 3 but exempted from the safe custody requirements. Full prescription writing requirements under regulation 15 will apply to its use in healthcare,
- zopiclone and zaleplon will be listed in Part 1 of Schedule 4 alongside zolpidem.

Ketamine is not being rescheduled immediately. In line with the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs' (ACMD) advice, the Home Office will undertake a public consultation later this year to assess the impact of rescheduling ketamine to Schedule 2. A final decision on the appropriate schedule in which to place ketamine will be made following the public consultation. Until then ketamine will remain a Schedule 4 Part 1 drug and will continue to be available for use in healthcare as is currently the case.

What does this mean?

From 10th June 2014 prescriptions for tramadol and lisdexamfetamine will have to include all the details currently required for schedule 2 and 3 controlled drugs under regulation 15 of the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001.

They must:

- be in ink or otherwise so as to be indelible and be signed by the person issuing it with his usual signature and dated by him;
 - specify the address of the person issuing it (the preprinted area at the foot of an NHS prescription will meet this);
 - if issued by a dentist, have the words “for dental treatment only” written on it and, if issued by a veterinary surgeon or a veterinary practitioner, have a declaration written on it that the controlled drug is prescribed for an animal or herd under his care; .
 - specify the name and address of the person for whose treatment it is issued or, if it is issued by a veterinary surgeon or veterinary practitioner, of the person to whom the controlled drug prescribed is to be delivered; .
 - specify the dose to be taken and— .
- (i) in the case of a prescription containing a controlled drug which is a preparation, the form and, where appropriate, the strength of the preparation, and either the total quantity (in both words and figures) of the preparation or the number (in both words and figures) of dosage units, as appropriate, to be supplied;
- (ii) in any other case, the total quantity (in both words and figures) of the controlled drug to be supplied .