

CHECKLIST

Initial action checklist when presented with a forged or fraudulent prescription:

1. **Do not dispense** - you should not dispense the medication but retain the prescription.
2. **Stall for time** - inform the customer that you can't dispense the prescription immediately.
3. **Check with the prescriber** - phone the prescriber to confirm whether or not the prescription has been altered in some way.
4. **Call the Police** - report all confirmed instances of alterations of prescriptions to the PSNI on 101 as they are criminal offences whether medication was obtained or not.
5. **Contact CFS** - use the online reporting form to provide details of the incident.
6. **Secure evidence** - Ensure that any CCTV that may have recorded the incident is retained and not routinely copied over.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For detailed advice on how to deal with suspected prescription fraud please visit:

<https://cfps.hscni.net/report/reportfmr/>

REPORT HSC FRAUD

If you have a concern about fraud within or against Health and Social Care please call the HSC Fraud Reporting Line on

0800 096 33 96

or report online at

cfs.hscni.net

Counter Fraud Services
Business Services Organisation
2 Franklin Street
Belfast
BT2 8DQ

Tel : 028 9536 3839
Email : cfs@hscni.net
Website : cfs.hscni.net

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Together we can stop HSC fraud.

**How to recognise
and respond to
prescription
fraud.**



**REPORT HSC FRAUD
0800 096 33 96
cfs.hscni.net**

WHAT IS PRESCRIPTION FRAUD?

Typically prescription fraud offences involve the service user(s) practicing some form of deception or forgery, or a combination of both, in order to obtain medication in greater quantities than originally prescribed or to obtain medication that was not prescribed to them at all.

A forged or fraudulent prescription is often a genuine prescription form that has been stolen or amended.

How you can help

As a Pharmacist, and like every other member of the Health and Social Care family, you have a professional obligation to help prevent fraud. While the vast majority of people who avail of pharmacy services are honest, there are a small minority of people who seek to defraud our health service and attempt to obtain medication that has not been prescribed to them.

It is important that you are aware of this risk and know the actions to take where fraud is suspected.

COMMON DRUGS LIA BLE TO MISUSE

Analgesics	Benzodiazepines	Hypnotics
Codeine	Diazepam	Zopiclone
Dihydrocodeine	Lorazepam	Zolpidem
Gabapentin	Lormetazepam	
Pregabalin/Lyrica	Midazolam	
Tramadol	Nitrazepam	
Ketamine	Temazepam	

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR

<i>The look and feel of a prescription</i>	Prescription forms are deliberately hard to copy, so false ones tend to stand out. Look for distinguishing features such as the serial number and watermark.
<i>Serial Numbers</i>	All prescription forms have serial numbers. Where CFS has been advised of stolen prescriptions we will issue an Alert. If you receive a CFS Alert, this should be examined by an appropriate person within your pharmacy and the details checked against your records to establish if there is any correlation between the Alert and any prescriptions you may have dispensed.
<i>Date of Issue</i>	Remember prescriptions must be presented for dispensing within certain timescales. There may be a genuine reason for having an old but still valid prescription however you should satisfy yourself as to the reason for the delay.
<i>Address of prescriber</i>	If you receive a prescription from a GP practice outside your area you should pay particular attention to the detail.
<i>Alterations or additions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Printed or hand-written prescriptions that have been manually altered, normally to increase quantity and/or strength of medication. Hand written additions to a handwritten or printed script that are for one of the commonly abused medications. Poorly spelt or laid out scripts that use incorrect dosage or other prescribing abbreviations that are not in keeping with the rest of the script.
<i>Signature</i>	You should know the signatures of the prescribers in your local area. If the signature looks unusual check with other prescriptions you may have or contact the prescriber if you have a concern.