

# Section 3



## Guidance on the Safe Supply of Medicines

# Introduction

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This section contains guidance on the safe supply of prescription-only and non-prescription medicines.

Under the Code of Conduct and Regulation 9 and 10 of the Regulation of Retail Pharmacy Businesses Regulations 2008, pharmacists have a professional and legal responsibility to ensure that prescription-only medicines and non-prescription medicines are supplied safely to patients and members of the public, with sufficient information for their appropriate and rational use. To assist pharmacists in fulfilling this obligation, the PSI has issued guidance that highlights the relevant legislation that must be complied with, as well as good practice requirements, to help ensure that these medicines are supplied safely.

If used correctly medicines can greatly enhance the health and wellbeing of patients, however if used incorrectly, medicines have the potential to cause a great deal of harm. Today, patients have access to information on medicines from a wide range of sources, not all of which may be accurate or valid. Pharmacists have a vital role in ensuring that medicines are used rationally, responsibly and safely in our society. As a recognised expert in the use of medicines, the pharmacist has a unique opportunity and duty to discharge that responsibility in their interaction with patients.

The superintendent and supervising pharmacist must ensure that all staff members are aware of PSI guidance and that they are appropriately trained and competent to carry out their role in compliance with the legislation, guidance, and the pharmacy's own SOPs. Furthermore, all members of pharmacy staff must be aware of, and understand the legal obligations on the pharmacist to ensure the safe supply of both prescription-only and non-prescription medicines, and recognise when to refer to the pharmacist for further advice, guidance or support.