Managing patient returned medicines during the COVID-19 pandemic

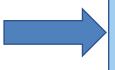


ROYAL PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY





Patient (or patient representative) enters pharmacy to return medicines for disposal.



- Maintain social distancing of at least 2 metres from the individual.
- Practice good hand hygiene.
- Follow PHE guidance on the wearing of PPE.



- Ask the patient to remove CDs, cytotoxic medicines and sharps from the bag.
- Ask them to place them into a separate plastic bag, you provide.
- Double bag CDs and cytotoxic medicines.

ITEMS

PRESENT

Conduct a visual check for CDs, cytotoxic medicines or sharps (without touching the bag).



Ask if the returned items include:

Controlled Drugs
(CDs), cytotoxic medicines or sharps.



If it not possible to store returned medicines safely, due to a lack of space in the waste bins, contractors should not accept returned medicines until a waste collection has occurred.

Controlled Drugs: Place bagged CDs into CD cabinet for 5 days before denaturing. If there is not space in the CD cabinet, consider storing them in alternative secure, lockable storage.

Cytotoxic medicines: Place directly into the hazardous waste bin.

Sharps: If the sharps are part of a commissioned needle & syringe programme, place directly into sharps bin. If not, ask the patient to take the sharps back home and arrange for them to be collected for disposal by the local council.



Practice good hand hygiene.



- Don't touch your face with gloved hands.
- Clean and disinfect all affected surfaces.
- Dispose of PPE in line with agreed guidance.

Ask the patient to place the bag into another bag (that you provide). The items should now be double bagged.



Place the double bagged, returned medicines directly into the waste medicines bin.

Issued May 2020, based on guidance issued by NPA, RPS, PSNC and PSG. See full guidance here.