
STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2009 No. 225

**The Controlled Drugs (Supervision of Management
and Use) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009**

PART 4

Co-operation between health bodies and other organisations

Duty to co-operate by disclosing information as regards relevant persons

25.—(1) A responsible body may disclose to any other responsible body any information in its possession or control which it reasonably considers it should share with that body for the purposes of—

- (a) identifying cases in which action may need to be taken in respect of matters arising in relation to the management or use of controlled drugs by a relevant person;
- (b) the consideration of issues relating to the taking of action in respect of such matters;
- (c) the taking of action in respect of such matters.

(2) If the responsible body wishes to disclose information under this regulation which—

- (a) contains confidential information which relates to and can identify a patient; and
- (b) that confidential information is not required for the purposes of identifying cases in which action may need to be taken in respect of matters arising in relation to the management or use of controlled drugs by a relevant person, or for considering or taking action in such a case,

the responsible body shall, so far as it is practical to do so, remove from the information the confidential information which relates to and can identify the patient.

(3) If the responsible body—

- (a) is unable, under paragraph (2), to remove from any information to be disclosed any confidential information which relates to and can identify a patient; or
- (b) considers it necessary to disclose information which contains the confidential information that relates to and can identify the patient,

the responsible body shall, where practicable, obtain the consent of the patient to whom the information relates.

(4) If the responsible body (or its accountable officer) has—

- (a) commenced an assessment of or an investigation into a matter of concern in relation to the management or use of controlled drugs by a relevant individual under regulation 16 (that individual being a relevant person for the purposes of this Part); or
- (b) completed an assessment of or an investigation into a matter of concern under regulation 16,

it shall notify the persons and bodies listed in paragraph (5) of the commencement or completion of the assessment or investigation, as the case may be, and provide appropriate details regarding the nature of the assessment or investigation.

(5) Those persons and bodies are—

- (a) if the responsible body has an accountable officer and he is unaware of the action taken, that accountable officer;
- (b) the accountable officer nominated or appointed as accountable officer for the Regional Board; and
- (c) any other responsible body that it considers it appropriate to notify.

(6) A responsible body is not required to notify any person or body, or to provide any details, under paragraph (4) where to do so would prejudice or would be likely to prejudice—

- (a) any investigation being conducted by the responsible body, or any other responsible body, under any enactment; or
- (b) any civil or criminal proceedings.

(7) Nothing in this regulation requires or permits any disclosure of information which is prohibited by or under any other enactment.

(8) In determining for the purposes of paragraph (7) whether disclosure is not prohibited by reason of being a disclosure of personal data which is exempt from the non-disclosure provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998 by virtue of section 35(1) of that Act (disclosure required by law or made in connection with legal proceedings etc.), it is to be assumed that the disclosure is required by this regulation.