

Controlled Drugs Team

NHS England and NHS
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Dear Colleagues

Re: Increased Awareness of Security Around Controlled Drugs due to COVID 19

In recent days, the National Crime Agency (NCA) have reported that they have started to receive anecdotal reports of soaring wholesale illicit drug prices and global supply and demand problems.

As a result, it may be that any legitimate businesses such as community pharmacies, hospitals or GP surgeries, where controlled drugs are legally kept, could also be at significant risk of being targeted for thefts due to these shortages.

We would therefore ask that you continue to remain vigilant regarding controlled drug stock levels. Please remember that this increased risk may also unfortunately be extended to potential diversion and thefts by employees, either for monetary gain or simply to supply to family members.

It is anticipated that the lower schedules of controlled drugs such as benzodiazepines will be targeted, however any controlled drugs could be considered at risk so please ensure that CD cabinets comply with the Safe Custody Regulations and that all available security is implemented.

There are reports that County Lines may be disrupted due to the shortages with subsequent concerns around a potentially increased threat of violence as a result.

Please feedback any information regarding concerns, street drug prices or trends to your local Police Controlled Drugs Liaison Officer via 101.

Thefts should ordinarily be reported as a crime via 101, BUT if there is any risk to yourself or others then in an EMERGENCY please continue to dial 999.

