Changes to the 'Form of Prescriptions' and 'Supply on Prescription' (previously Regulations 13 and 14 of the 1988 Regulations, now Regulation 15 and 16 in the 2017 Regulations)

- Inclusion of the first name of the prescriber on the prescription
- Inclusion of the prescriber's registration number on the prescription
- Requirement for the first name of the patient to be included on the prescription
- The name of the controlled drug to be prescribed must be included on the prescription i.e. either the common/generic name or the proprietary/brand name of the preparation.
- The **name and address of the person** for whom the treatment is issued, or the name and address of the person to whom the controlled drug is to be delivered in the case of a veterinary prescription, **shall no longer be required to be handwritten** for any controlled drug in Schedule 2 or 3.
    - NB **an addressograph (adhesive label) will not fulfil the requirement for this information to be indelible.**
- For controlled drugs in Schedule 2 and 3 **the following elements must continue to be handwritten** by the prescriber:
    - name of the drug (either common/generic name/INN or proprietary/brand name)
    - dose
    - pharmaceutical form
    - strength (where appropriate)
    - the total quantity of drug to be dispensed **written in both words and figures**
- If the prescription is issued by a registered veterinary practitioner for the treatment of an animal, the prescriber must be satisfied as to the identity of the person to whom the controlled drug is to be delivered. This is consistent with a similar requirement already in place for prescribers of human medicines.

Additional prescribing and dispensing requirements for Schedule 4 Part 1 controlled drugs

- The specific criteria to be included on a prescription for Schedule 2 and 3 controlled drugs will now also apply to controlled drugs in Schedule 4 Part 1 i.e. most benzodiazepines and z-drugs, that is:
    - the name of the drug (either common/generic name/INN or proprietary/brand name)
    - dose
    - pharmaceutical form
    - strength (where appropriate)
    - the total quantity of the drug to be dispensed **in both words and figures**
- However **for controlled drugs in Schedule 4 Part 1 only, these will not be required to be handwritten** i.e. they can all be typed. The requirements for these specific criteria to be specified in the prescriber's handwriting will also not apply to prescriptions for Methadone.
- The requirements for a controlled drug prescription to be first dispensed within 14 days of the date written on the prescription shall not apply to Schedule 4 Part 1 drugs. Current Medicinal Products (Prescription and Control of Supply) Regulations (specifically Regulation 7) will continue to apply for controlled drugs in Part 1 of Schedule 4.
- Where the prescription for a Schedule 4 Part 1 controlled drug has been indicated by the prescriber to be repeated, and where the prescription is not exhausted:
- The prescription shall be endorsed by the pharmacy and the following details recorded on the prescription:
    - The quantity of each controlled drug supplied
    - The date on which the supply was made
    - The name and address of the pharmacy where the controlled drug was supplied from
- A copy of the prescription and any endorsements shall be made and retained on the premises from which the drug was supplied for two years from the date of supply.
- Where the prescription for a Schedule 4 Part 1 controlled drug has been exhausted, similar to existing provisions for Schedule 2 and 3 controlled drugs, the prescription shall be endorsed and retained on the premises for two years.
- **Controlled Drugs in Schedule 4 Part 1 are not required to be stored in a safe.**