



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



CLINICAL DIRECTIVE 02/2011
FROM: Medical Director
TO: Education & Competency Assurance Officers; Advanced Paramedics; Paramedics
SUBJECT: Disposal of unused controlled drugs NASCG006 NAS Policy – Management of Controlled Drugs including Morphine Sulphate and Midazolam (Reference no. NASCG006) has been amended to provide for more robust mechanisms for disposal of unused aliquots of morphine. Section 7.5.1 now reads as follows: 7.5.1 In the event that any ampoules/syringes are not completely used, then the remaining aliquot must be disposed of by evacuating the ampoule/syringe into a sharps disposal container followed by disposal of the empty ampoule/syringe into the sharps disposal container on arrival in the Emergency Dept. This action must be witnessed by another NAS Advanced Paramedic/Paramedic and noted on the PCR with signatures of both staff concerned. If using the e-PCR staff should record this in the narrative with both practitioner's PHECC PINs.
Summary: Advanced paramedics are required to follow the above procedure for disposal of unused Controlled Drugs and complete the necessary documentation

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RATIONALE:

This change provides for robust methods of disposing of controlled drugs. Unused controlled drugs must be disposed of in a safe transparent manner, witnessed by a fellow NAS staff member and recorded appropriately. This assists both NAS and Advanced Paramedic staff in adhering to legal obligations on handling of controlled drugs.

NAS policy on management of controlled drugs (below) must be adhered to at all times.

NASCG006 NAS Policy – Management of Controlled Drugs including Morphine Sulphate and Midazolam Reference no. NASCG006 Revision no. 3 Approval Date 19th January 2011

Summary:

Advanced paramedics are required to follow the above procedure for disposal of unused Controlled Drugs and complete the necessary documentation

EFFECTIVE FROM: February 25th 2011
EFFECTIVE TO: Indefinite

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ON THIS DIRECTIVE: To Education and Competency Assurance Officer

Clinical Directives are formulated by the National Ambulance Service Medical Directorate, the National Ambulance Service Education and Competency Assurance Team, the Dublin Fire Brigade Medical Director, the Dublin Fire Brigade EMS Support Team and the Irish Coast Guard Chief Crewman (Standards). Clinical Directives apply to all relevant staff in the HSE National Ambulance Service, Dublin Fire Brigade and Irish Coast Guard helicopter winch-crew.

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