



**Suffolk  
Primary  
Care**

# Lost Medications & Controlled Drugs Protocol

Version	Date	Version Created By	Version Approved By	Comments
Issue 1	9 September 2022	Holly Warman	IGC	First issue

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The purpose of this protocol is to provide guidance for doctors, nurses, and patients to enable safe prescribing of controlled drugs (CDs). Incorrect prescribing of these medicines can result in harm to patients including addiction, physical and mental harm, and death.

This guideline primarily focuses on drugs which are commonly used for recreation, abuse, or where risk of diversion is high.

These include but are not limited to:

- Morphine Diazepam
- Tramadol Temazepam
- Codeine Alprazolam
- Dihydrocodeine Pregabalin
- Oxycodone Gabapentin
- Fentanyl Zopiclone
- Buprenorphine Zolpidem

Suffolk Primary Care will not start anybody on the above drugs long term or increase the dose for those already taking them.

Patients who request these medicines before they are due or who run out because they have increased the dose without discussing with a Doctor will have their prescription rejected.

### **Lost medications – controlled drugs**

If a patient contacts the practice saying they have lost their controlled drug medication for the first time, it is up to the on call doctor as to whether more should be issued. Reception will place a note stating “CD early request, first, \*insert date\*” on the patient’s alerts.

If a patient contacts the practice again saying they have lost their CD medications their prescriptions will be changed to weekly and they will not be issued with more medication. Reception will place a note stating “CD early request, multiple” on the patient’s alerts.

If a patient on weekly prescriptions contacts the practice saying they have lost their CD medications, their prescriptions will be changed to daily prescriptions and they will not be issued with more medication.