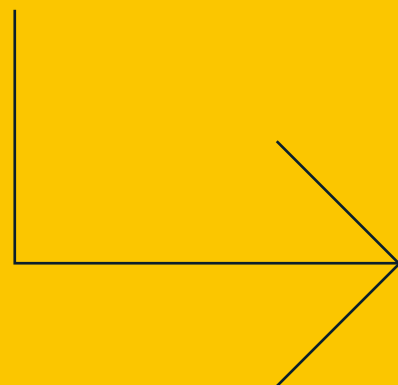


# Are bad habits being passed onto new staff?



**Here's four common scenarios that might surprise you!**





## Scenario 1

You've just changed from packaging Dose Administration Aids (DAA) in-house to using a third party provider. Should you inform your current patients about the change? What about any new patients?



The pharmacist who supplies the DAA must ensure that the patient's privacy rights are understood. If a third party is involved, you need to confirm the patient has consented and a record of their consent is kept. This applies to both new and current patients.



## Scenario 2

Although they deny it, you believe a patient has been obtaining quantities of S3 codeine based drugs from two other pharmacies in the local area. Is it okay to phone those pharmacies to check your suspicions?



No, the information that a pharmacist obtains in the course of their work is confidential and can only be disclosed:

- 1) with the patient's permission; or
- 2) with legal authority such as a subpoena or Court Order



### Scenario 3

You own and work in a pharmacy, but have a 20% share in another four - all managed by other owners or business partners.

A recent dispensing error has highlighted that pharmacists in one of the four locations managed by others are using old versions of the Australian Pharmaceutical Formulary and don't have a copy of the 'Don't rush to crush handbook'. The managing pharmacist doesn't feel the need to keep updating resources. Are you at risk?

**ANSWER**

Dispensing errors are always a reminder of the importance of barcode scanning as a final check against error before affixing the label.

An owner or business partner of a pharmacy cannot delegate their professional obligations, even if they are not regularly present. All proprietor pharmacists (whether they are managers or not) are responsible for ensuring that their employed pharmacists have access to the essential resources.



### **Scenario 4**

You take a phone call from a GP you have a relationship with, asking you to compound a steroid based cream. They fax through a script for only one patient, but ask you to provide them with a further six pots to keep in their surgery over a busy holiday period. Is this okay?



No, if a medicine has not been prescribed, the pharmacist should notify the GP that the medicine cannot be compounded under any other circumstances.

Compounded medicine should be a single unit of issue for one patient. For prescribed medicines, if the quantity is not specified, this must be confirmed with the GP.

For more information on your obligations as a pharmacist

 **1800 810 213**



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