**Prescribing**

**Key points to remember for prescribers**

Before starting to write

* Correct patient
* Correct address – some may have moved house but have old stickers in notes
* Correct medication item – e.g. when on more than one formulation of methylphenidate
* Correct formulation – e.g. when available in more than one form

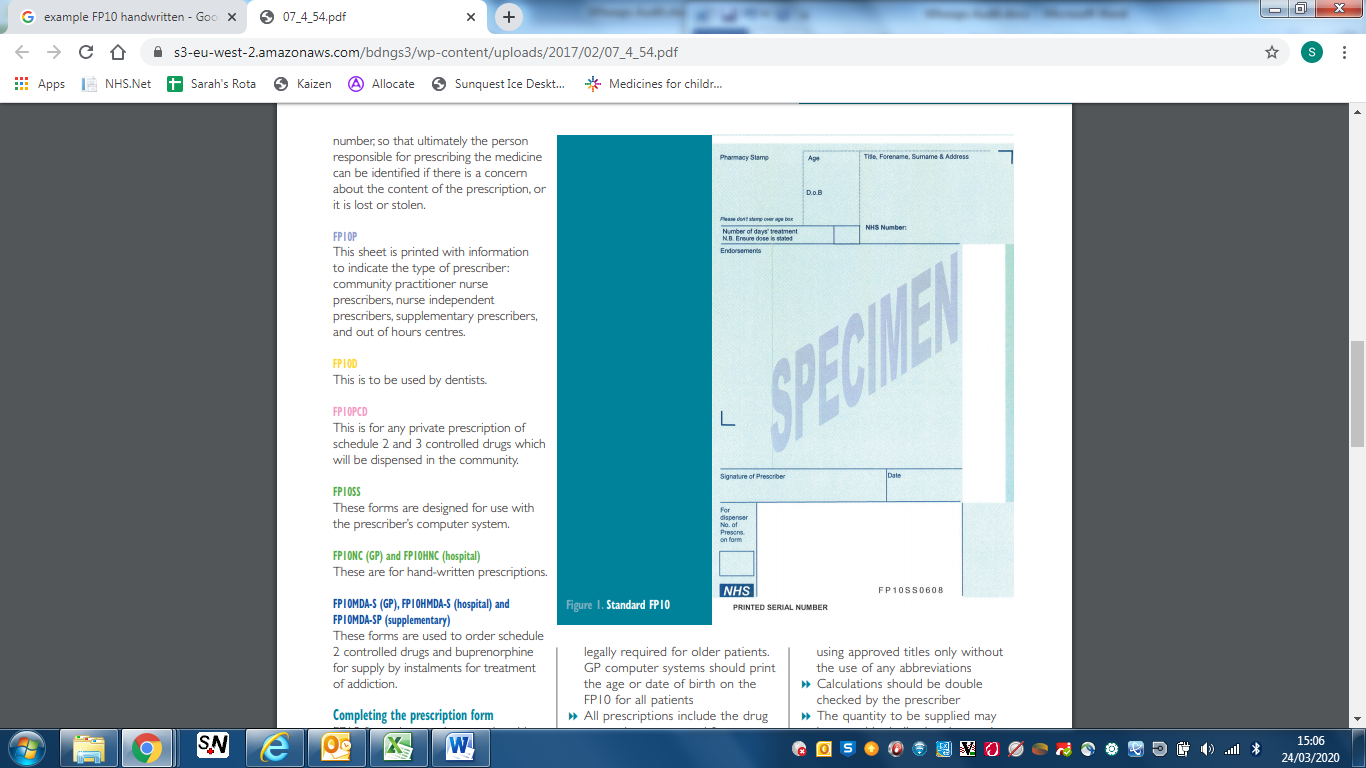
DON’T write in the white column at the right hand side OR green endorsements areas

**Finishing off**

* Sign
* Print (or use stamp)
* Date

**Demographics:**

* No sticky labels
* Ensure current address
* Don’t forget Date of Birth
* No amendments (or make very clear if needed)



**Melatonin**

* Check preferred formulation (liquid v tablets)
* For liquid check alcohol free / not – Avoid brand names as may be unavailable
* For tablets – check available strengths
  + Circadin = 2mg (packs of 30)
  + Slenyto = 1mg (pack of 60) or 5mg (pack of 30)

**Methylphenidate**

* Check which preparation patient needs – standard or modified release & formulation
  + Medikinet Immediate release ***tablets***

= 5mg, 10mg, 20mg (all pack of 30)

* + Medikinet XL ***capsules***

= 5mg, 10mg, 20mg, 30mg, 40mg, 50mg, 60mg (all packs of 30 capsules)

* Words AND figures
  + e.g. please supply 60 (sixty) x 10mg (ten milligram) capsules
* Beware when prescribing more than one strength (e.g. to achieve 15mg) to match correct words and figures

**Prescribing controlled drugs**

Controlled drugs subject to prescription requirements are all preparations in schedule 2 and 3. These drugs can be identified by the following symbols in the BNFc:

See the source image for preparations in schedule 2

[Image result for BNF symbol for schedule 2  controlled drugs](https://www.bing.com/images/search?view=detailV2&ccid=f7KDTxHV&id=BE2B379957EB23ABFC5C162DBF57C7D56361B679&thid=OIP.f7KDTxHV0no878QYo_7LzAAAAA&mediaurl=https://bnfc.nice.org.uk/images/bnf/CD3.png&exph=19&expw=35&q=BNF+symbol+for+schedule+2++controlled+drugs&simid=608002004138987238&ck=9CE950BFA00CE9EBEFFC0CF4FBF4D0D2&selectedIndex=6) for preparations in schedule 3

The following are requirements for prescriptions of controlled drugs:

* Indelible ink must be used
* Prescriber must sign the prescription – whether the prescription is handwritten or printed
* The date the prescription was signed must be recorded
* Prescribers address must be specified (and must be within the UK)

The following details must be included:

* The name and address of the patient (PO box addresses are not acceptable)
* Medication details:
  + the form (e.g. tablets, liquid)
  + the strength
  + the dose
  + to avoid ambiguity where the prescription requests multiple strengths of medicine each drug should be prescribed separately (i.e. separate dose, total quantity)
* Supply:
  + Total quantity to be supplied in words and figures of dosage units to be prescribed

Other information:

* Prescriptions for controlled drugs are valid for 28 days from the date stated
* Alterations to the prescription are best avoided but if made, cross out the error, initial and date it then write the correction
* If an error is made that can’t be corrected put a line through the prescription and write spoiled or destroy it.

The most commonly prescribed controlled drugs in community paediatrics are stimulant medications for ADHD.

Examples:

**1. For methylphenidate hydrochloride 15mg PO OM prescribe:**

Methylphenidate hydrochloride 5mg tablets

Take one tablet PO OM

Supply 30 (thirty) tablets

AND

Methylphenidate hydrochloride 10mg tablets

Take one tablet PO OM

Supply 30 (thirty) tablets

To have a total of 15mg (5mg + 10mg) methylphenidate each morning

**2. For Equasym XL 20mg PO OM prescribe:**

Equasym XL 20mg capsules

Take one capsule PO OM

Supply 30 (thirty) capsules