



**THE ASSOCIATION OF ANAESTHETISTS**  
*of Great Britain & Ireland*

**AAGBI Position Statement on administration of controlled drugs by anaesthetists for patient use**

In the light of a recent untoward incident<sup>1</sup>, the AAGBI would like to make its members aware of the changes in regulation of controlled drugs which supersede the regulations introduced in 2006. The new regulations<sup>2</sup> came into force on 1 April 2013 and cover England, Scotland, Wales and the Armed Forces. There is a separate set of regulations for Northern Ireland.<sup>3</sup>

It is now a statutory requirement<sup>4</sup> to record the amount of controlled drugs administered and the amount wasted. Any disposal or destruction must be witnessed and comply with waste management regulations.<sup>5,6</sup>

Whilst each organisation must develop its own robust Standard Operating Policies to comply with the change in regulations, the Department of Health has recommended that the Care Quality Commission monitors this compliance in the health sector.

The AAGBI is in the process of updating its guidance<sup>7</sup> on this subject to promote standardisation of good practice, ensuring patient safety and the well being of all anaesthetists.

**References:**

1. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-31737707>
2. [Controlled Drugs \(Supervision of management and use\) Regulations 2013: Information about the Regulations DOH](#)
3. Controlled Drugs (Supervision of management and use) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009
4. Misuse of Drugs Act 2001 (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2015
5. S.I. No. 85/1994 - Environmental Protection Agency (Licensing) Regulations, 1994.
6. Hazardous waste regulations  
[http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2005/894/pdfs/ukxi\\_20050894\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2005/894/pdfs/ukxi_20050894_en.pdf)
7. AAGBI Guidelines Controlled drugs in Perioperative care 2006