



**Royal  
Pharmaceutical  
Society  
of Great Britain**

## **Law and Ethics Bulletin**

### **Reminder of good practice requirement to have separate members of staff involved in the dispensing and checking process**

Following a recent incident involving a dispensing error in which the wrong medicine was supplied, the Royal Pharmaceutical Society wishes to remind pharmacists of the following guidance.

The dispensing and checking of all medication should ideally involve two separate competent members of staff, before the medication is supplied to the patient. This is a good practice requirement to minimise the risk of dispensing errors.

The Society's guidance on "Risk minimisation with regard to dispensing and checking" ([www.rpsgb.org/pdfs/restoolriskmin.pdf](http://www.rpsgb.org/pdfs/restoolriskmin.pdf)) advises that:

*"Ideally, two people should be involved in the dispensing process. Where a second competent person is available to do an accuracy check on an assembled medicine this should be done as best practice. Ideally the checker should not have been involved in the assembly."*

*In exceptional circumstances where a pharmacist is working alone, having assembled the medicines, he/she must endeavour to create a short mental break between the assembly and final check to avoid carrying over any recollection of preconceived errors from the assembly process."*