

Alliance of Registered Homeopaths

ALLIANCE OF REGISTERED HOMEOPATHS FACT SHEET

This fact sheet provides information about some key areas that ARH practitioners need to be aware of. We hope you find it useful.

1. DATA PROTECTION

The Data Protection Act 1998 requires every **data controller** who is processing personal data to notify the Data Protection Office, unless they are exempt. Failure to notify is a criminal offence. The fee for notification is £35.00 (VAT nil) renewable annually.

Who is a **data controller**? If you keep any information about your clients on a computer, you are a data controller and you are required to register with the Data Protection Office, but if you have any doubts about whether you should register or not, contact:

*Office of the Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF*

Tel. 01625 545745

www.dataprotection.gov.uk

2. MEDICINES ACT

Practitioners who use medicating potencies to medicate un-medicated tablets are required to be in possession of a **Non-Orthodox Practitioners Mixing and Assembly Licence**. The licence is issued to the person who will be undertaking the mixing and assembly at the premises where this will be carried out. Licences are issued for a period of 5 years and the fee is approximately £156

If you purchase medicated remedies and supply your patient with a few tablets taken out of this bottle, you still need a licence because you are mixing and assembling remedies. If your patient purchases remedies direct from a homeopathic supplier, then you do not need to obtain a licence.

You can obtain your licence from the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

*MHRA
Room 21-136
Market Towers
1 Nine Elms Lane
London
SW8 5NQ*

Tel: 020 7084 2000

www.mhra.gov.uk

3. LEAFLETS

The Alliance of Registered Homeopaths has produced a patient information leaflet that can be purchased from the office at £15.00 per hundred plus £4.95 postage and packing. Please send your order, including your cheque to; **ARH, Millbrook, Millbrook Hill, Nutley, East Sussex, TN22 3PJ**, or phone through your order to the office on 08700 736339 if you wish to pay by credit card.

At our website, you will find an order form for the leaflets and other ARH promotional material, such as posters and balloons, and publications you might find useful. You can download the order form from: www.a-r-h.org/members.htm

We realise that some practitioners like to produce their own leaflet but we would like to draw your attention to the most common pitfall that occurs when writing the leaflet and that is use of the term “**no side-effects**”.

As homeopaths we are fully aware that homeopathic remedies produce none of the harmful side-effects that can be found with conventional medicine. However, if we prescribe a remedy for eczema that exacerbates the condition as part of the healing process, the patient may feel that they are suffering “**side-effects**” and draw to your attention that your leaflet stated this would not happen.

Please word your leaflet carefully to avoid any misunderstanding.

4. CONFIDENTIALITY

All patient records are, of course, confidential. However, there are degrees of confidentiality.

Total confidentiality or **strictest confidence** means that you will not divulge information relating to the patient, under **any** circumstances.

Confidentiality within the law of the land obliges you to report notifiable diseases, and expects you to inform the appropriate authorities when a patient might be considered a danger to themselves, or to others.

If a difficult situation occurs, please contact our Ethics and Welfare Officer, Lyndsey Booth (tel. 020 7609 6771, lyndsey@a-r-h.org), who will be able to advise you, or suggest a suitable referral.

5. MEDICAL INSURANCE SCHEMES

The ARH is recognised by the following health insurance companies:

- Birmingham Hospital Saturday Fund
- Health Shield
- HSA Healthcare
- Patient Aid Association

This means that if your patients have a policy with any of these companies, they may be entitled to have the full or partial cost of their treatment with you reimbursed. More information is available from our website: www.a-r-h.org/AboutUs/HelpWithCosts.htm

We hope this list will increase as we reach agreements with other companies.