

GP Practice Guidance for Implementing PGDs

Patient group directions (PGDs) allow certain health professionals listed in [regulations](#) such as registered nurses, paramedics and pharmacists to supply and administer specified medicines to pre-defined groups of patients, without a prescription.

Examples of staff groups who cannot work under a PGD are:

- healthcare assistants
- nurse associates and
- physician associates.

The health professional who carries out the assessment under the PGD cannot delegate supply and/or administration to another member of staff.

This document provides advice on the signature requirements for PGDs.

Authorising PGDs – (this will normally be completed by the commissioning organisation)

[The Human Medicines Regulations 2012 \(regulation 229\)](#) requires that a PGD must be signed by a senior doctor (or, if appropriate, a dentist) and a pharmacist, both of whom should have been involved in developing the direction. These signatures will generally be found on the first couple of pages.

PGDs must also be authorised by an appropriate authorising body in line with [the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 \(regulation 229\)](#) (e.g. Integrated Care Boards (ICBs), NHS England or Local Authorities) when it applies to an NHS Service.

It is good practice for PGDs to be signed by representatives of the registered health professional group(s) intended to work under the PGD. Please note this is not a legal requirement so may not always be included in the list of signatures.

Practice responsibilities

Provider organisations should identify a senior, responsible person (e.g. GP, Practice Manager or Lead Nurse) from within the service/practice to authorise names, registered health professionals to practise under the PGD. This senior person should ensure that only competent, qualified and trained professionals operate under the PGD. The signature for this is on the registered health professional authorisation sheet often on the last few pages of the PGD.

Ensure that the senior person has this responsibility included in their job description and has appropriate indemnity cover in place.

Ensure that the names of health professionals who have been authorised to operate under PGDs are kept for the required period (see [BNSSG PGD Policy](#))

The senior responsible person should ensure that the list of authorised health professionals is kept up to date.

Ensure that health professionals' job description include working under the PGD and that they have appropriate indemnity cover for the activity.

The practice/ service should ensure they keep a record of all the health professionals authorised to practise under the PGD. Electronic systems may be used to record authorisation, agreement and declarations of competence. However, there must be a record of who has made the entry, the date and the time and an audit trail of any alterations.

Ensure all staff involved in operating under a PGD have read and understood the [BNSSG PGD Policy](#)

Health Professional Responsibilities

Before practising under a PGD, health professionals should ensure that they:

1. Have undertaken the necessary initial training and continuing professional development.
2. Have been assessed as competent and authorised to practise by the provider organisation.
3. Have signed the appropriate documentation in the PGD
4. Are using the most recent and in date final signed version of the PGD
5. Have read and understood the context of the PGD
6. Ensure that they have read and understood the [BNSSG PGD Policy](#) .

Health professionals should keep a copy of their individual authorisation and have authorised PGD available for reference.

Ensure they have appropriate indemnity cover for practising under a PGD and that this activity is included within their PGD.

For further information:

[GP mythbuster 19: Patient Group Directions \(PGDs\)/Patient Specific Directions \(PSDs\) - Care Quality Commission \(cqc.org.uk\)](#)

BMA guidance (2016) [bma-patient-group-and-patient-specific-directions-jan-2016.pdf](#)

NICE medicines practice guideline [MPG2]. Published Aug 2013, last updated Mar 2017

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Specialist Pharmacy Service [Patient Group Directions – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice](#)