TO PGD OR NOT TO PGD? – That is the question. A guide to choosing the best option for individual situations

This diagram is designed to take you through a process to aid decision making and help you consider whether a Patient Group Direction (PGD) is appropriate for an area of practice that involves the supply or administration of medicines. The diagram also has links which signpost to legislation, national guidelines Patient Group Directions (NICE Guideline MPG2) (2017) and Specialist Pharmacy Website (SPS) Patient Group Directions (PGD) resources.

BEFORE YOU START

We recommend that you have a multidisciplinary discussion to carefully consider if there is, or could be, an opportunity in the care pathway to use a prescription or a written Patient Specific Direction by a doctor or non-medical prescriber. Patient Group Directions (NICE Guideline MPG2) (2017), states that you should consider investing in the training of additional non-medical prescribers to enable redesign of services if necessary.

Is the healthcare provider commissioned to provide an NHS or Public Health commissioned service?

Yes

No

IF YOU HAVE CONSIDERED AND ACTED ON THE ABOVE STATEMENT

START HERE

Do you still want to consider if a PGD is an appropriate option?

Yes

No or not sure

The preferred way for patients to receive medicines is for a prescriber to provide care for an individual patient on a one-to-one basis. Options include:

- Individual written prescription to be dispensed by a registered pharmacy
- Patient Specific Direction
- Health professionals should refer to their own regulatory or professional bodies standards/guidance where available e.g. NMC Standards and GMC Prescribing Guidance. General good practice principles are relevant to all prescribers.
- Do not use PGDs unless there are clear benefits for patient care without compromising patient safety and there are clear governance arrangements and accountability.

Are the health professionals eligible to use PGDs i.e. registered health professionals listed in PGD legislation?

Yes

No

A PGD may not be required if the professional activity fits within the exemptions in Schedule 17 Human Medicines Regulations (HMR) 2012 and associated statutory instruments.

Are the medicines that these registered health professionals need to supply or administer listed in the exemptions?

Yes

No

A PGD may need to be considered.

A PGD is not required. The registered health professional has authority to supply or administer in accordance with Human Medicines Regulations (HMR) 2012

Note – some organisations use PGDs in these circumstances although it is not a legal requirement.

Are the products involved all licensed medicines?

Yes

No

Only licensed medicines (i.e. those with a UK marketing authorisation [UKMA]) can be supplied and administered via a PGD.

In the UK, a marketing authorisation is granted by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency. (MHRA). Off label use of a licensed medicine can be included in a PGD only when clearly justified by best clinical practice. See Patient Group Directions (NICE Guideline MPG2) (2017) Recommendation 1.1.7 and note that some organisations have additional policies with reference to off label use. Medicines which do not have a UKMA must be prescribed. Consider developing a local protocol or treatment guidelines for dressings and medical devices.

Are the licensed medicines going to be mixed prior to supply or administration?

Yes

No

The MHRA states that the mixing of two separate medicinal products will result in a new, unlicensed product if one product cannot be d

Go to page 2

Options include:

- To PGD or not to PGD Version 9.5. Update of links. Published by SPS PGDs (England) January 2018. THIS VERSION IS FOR ENGLAND ONLY. Review due June 2018 (or earlier subject to legislation or other guidelines changes). If you are referring to a hard copy of this document – please check the SPS website (England) www.sps.nhs.uk to make sure that you are using the most recent version.
This diagram is designed to take you through a process to aid decision making and help you consider whether a Patient Group Direction (PGD) is appropriate for an area of practice that involves the supply or administration of medicines. The diagram also has links which signpost to legislation, national guidelines Patient Group Directions (NICE Guideline MPG2) (2017) and Specialist Pharmacy Website (SPS) Patient Group Directions (PGD) resources.

If you are referring to a hard copy of this document – please check the SPS website (England) www.sps.nhs.uk to make sure that you are using the most recent version.
TO PGD OR NOT TO PGD? – That is the question. A guide to choosing the best option for individual situations

This diagram is designed to take you through a process to aid decision making and help you consider whether a Patient Group Direction (PGD) is appropriate for an area of practice that involves the supply or administration of medicines. The diagram also has links which signpost to legislation, national guidelines Patient Group Directions (NICE Guideline MPG2) (2017) and Specialist Pharmacy Website (SPS) Patient Group Directions (PGD) resources.

This chart may not cover all situations proposed for using PGDs. The proposed activity should meet the principles stated in Patient Group Directions (NICE Guideline MPG2) (2017) Supply or administration of medicines under PGD should be reserved for those limited situations where this offers an advantage for patient care (without compromising patient safety) and where it is consistent with appropriate professional relationships and accountability.

If having considered all of the above, you decide that a PGD may be an appropriate route to provide this clinical activity, also ensure that you consider other medicines legislation and clinical governance issues at each stage of the process. We recommend that you also refer to the following:

- PGD Q&A – abortifacients
- PGD Q&A - labelling of POMs supplied under PGD
- PGD Q&A - delegation
- PGD Q&A – trainee supervision
- Quality PGDs - 7 Steps to success and other resources such as PGD Q&As on the SPS website
- Patient Group Directions (NICE Guideline MPG2) (2013) Pathway and Tools and Resources
- PGD multi-disciplinary e learning package
- Your local Medicines and PGD Policies

To PGD or not to PGD Version 9.5. Update of links. Published by SPS PGDs (England) January 2018. THIS VERSION IS FOR ENGLAND ONLY. Review due June 2018 (or earlier subject to legislation or other guidelines changes). If you are referring to a hard copy of this document – please check the SPS website (England) www.sps.nhs.uk to make sure that you are using the most recent version.