

Pharmacy Department  
NHS Lanarkshire Headquarters  
Kirklands  
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**TO  
ALL COMMUNITY PHARMACIES IN  
NHS LANARKSHIRE  
PLEASE SHARE WITH LOCUMS &  
SUPPORT STAFF AS APPROPRIATE**

Date	1 <sup>st</sup> October 2015
Your Ref	
Our Ref	GL/GL
Enquiries to	George Lindsay
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Dear Colleague,

**COMMUNITY PHARMACY: PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE  
PROVISION OF PROPHYLACTIC ANTIPYRETIC (PARACETAMOL) FOLLOWING  
MENINGOCOCCAL GROUP B VACCINE AND OTHER CHILDHOOD VACCINES  
PCA(P)(2015) 25**

The above circular was distributed to all community pharmacies earlier this week and it provided an awareness of this service.

A key element of the service provision is the Patient Group Direction (PGD) which requires Health Board sign off and the purpose of this letter is to distribute that locally signed off PGD and to give some local context.

The clinical detail within the PGD has been written nationally and it along with the detail provided in Annex A & B of the PCA provides an excellent overview of the issues. In covering letters like this I often try to summarise the key points but on this occasion **it really is essential that pharmacists and support staff read the whole of these documents to gain an understanding of:**

- **the clinical care and advice required,**
- **importance of referring requests for this service to a pharmacist,**
- **methods of prescribing,**
- **payment arrangements and**
- **why this PGD is being used at this time.**

From a professionally challenging and patient care point of view it is very important to note that the recommended dose regimen of paracetamol of three doses exceeds the current post-immunisation licensing restriction on Pharmacy (P) and General Sales List (GSL) paracetamol products, which advise a maximum of two doses. Consequently it is an inherent part of the PGD that the pharmacist who makes the supply advises the parent/carer that the dosing advice on the purchased product and manufacturer's patient information leaflet will differ from the dosing advice recommended post MenB vaccination.

There are several other important counselling points that the pharmacist must advise the parent/carer about and these too are clearly detailed within the PGD.

It is also important those pharmacists are aware of other supply methods. GPs may prescribe paracetamol for this purpose and nurses are empowered via a separate PDG to administer a dose of paracetamol at the time of vaccination. It is important that everyone involved is aware of these different supply routes and counsels the parent/carer

appropriately to make sure that there are no misunderstandings which could result in an inadvertent additional dose being given.

I am sure that pharmacists and support staff will welcome this opportunity to provide a professional service which supports a very valuable public health initiative. It is also good to see that this development brings clarity to the issue that while the provision of paracetamol for the prophylaxis of post immunisation pyrexia is not to be a part of the Minor Ailments Service it can now be regarded as part of Community Pharmacy Public Health Services.

My advice is that all pharmacists and support staff should read the attachments in full then sign of the final page of the PGD and return it as described to

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As soon as this is done pharmacists can start to provide the service.

Yours sincerely

**GEORGE LINDSAY  
CHIEF PHARMACIST  
PRIMARY CARE**

Enc

Cc

David Cromie, NHS Lan Immunisation Coordinator  
Karen Mcguigan, Public Health Adviser – Immunisation  
Susan Stewart, Associate Nurse Director  
Gregor Smith, Medical Director – Primary Care  
Vijay Sonthalia, Chair, LMC