

WHAT'S NEW IN THE UNSCHEDULED CARE – PHARMACY GUIDE V 24?

Reminder of Inclusion/Exclusion criteria change

The inclusion and exclusion criteria within the PGD for urgent provision of repeat medication were reviewed and changed with version 23 of the Unscheduled Care PGD. The changes allow Pharmacists to further maintain continuity of medication supply and care to patients when their prescriber is unavailable.

Changes are as follows:

1. Removal of the requirement for the medication to be on a repeat prescription

The removal of the requirement for the medication to be on a repeat prescription allows additional situations where patients have run out of their medication to be addressed. This will bring the PGD in line with existing emergency supply regulations, which do not have this restriction, providing pharmacists with the opportunity to further maintain continuity of care.

Below are some scenarios where removing the requirement to be on a repeat prescription will help support patient care (not an exhaustive or prescriptive list):

- Patient recently discharged from hospital with new medication and has not organised a further supply of medication with their own prescriber who is now unavailable
- Acute prescribed medication lost, stored incorrectly, smashed bottle etc
- Medication is prescribed regularly but may not be on a repeat prescription - for example antidepressants
- Patient has been prescribed an acute medication but prescription not forwarded/received in the pharmacy and prescriber unavailable – information held on Emergency Care Summary(ECS) obtained through NHS 24 would enable supply
- Patient prescribed medication which they cannot swallow and requires liquid preparation
- Alternative flavour of same antibiotic if child unable to tolerate dispensed medication, or indeed capsule or tablet formulation if this resolves the situation
- Supply alternative formulation if dispensed medication is not suitable for other reasons e.g. allergy to excipient, religious reason e.g. beef gelatine
- Acute supplies of rescue antibiotic for COPD patients, many patients keep rescue antibiotic prescription but may have used the last one without renewing it
- Dispense remaining balance of antibiotic when original dispensing pharmacy is closed

2. Removal of the exclusion criteria which prevented successive supplies

Scenarios which occur where removing this requirement helps (not an exhaustive or prescriptive list):

- Patient supplied with medication using the PGD until prescriber is available however surgery unable to provide a prescription for another 48 hrs
- Patient unable to make an appointment to see own prescriber before medication provided on PGD runs out

3. Removal of example within PGD of what prescriber unavailable means

An example used to describe prescriber unavailable as “surgery closed” within the PGD led to some interpretation that the PGD could not be used unless the OOH period was in operation. The PGD can be used at any time where the prescriber is unavailable. The patient's prescriber will always be unavailable in the OOH period but there may be circumstances where they may also be unavailable “in hours”. Pharmacists may wish to discuss with their local GP Practices what the definition of the “prescriber unavailable” means at a local level and when it is appropriate to use the PGD in the “in hours” period.

Medication Included and Excluded

Medication included in the PGD version 24 and **can** be supplied

Methotrexate injections on pg 864 of BNF 75 for self-administration can now be supplied, listed as an exception to the injection exclusion by name: Metoject PEN[®], Nordimet[®] and Zlatal[®] injections

New medication excluded in the PGD version 24 and **cannot** be supplied

- Baricitinib is for specialist use only
- Cenegermin is for specialist use only
- Obeticholic acid is for specialist use only
- Rolapitant is for specialist use only
- Tofacitinib is for specialist use only
- Tryptophan is for specialist use only

Direct Referral Template

The direct referral template in section 7 has been updated to include a space for the patient's contact telephone number.

Individual Authorisation Forms

When completing this form please add the pharmacy name and contractor code of your normal work location, tick the Health Board you work in, indicate your position within the pharmacy and fax or post to the relevant Health Board number (Section 11). You can use a single form for up to three Health Boards. If doing so, tick up to three boxes and fax or post to each Board you have selected. This will ensure you are authorised to use the PGD in the Boards indicated.

Contractors must ensure that at least one pharmacist has named their premises or payment cannot be made for a supply under the PGD. Pharmacists have until **31st July 2018** to sign version 24 or payment for supplies made will be stopped (unless the PGD is signed and faxed immediately before a supply is made). Individual pharmacists are reminded that they **must sign** the most recent version of the PGD, which is usually issued twice every year. If you do not sign and fax or post each time the PGD is issued, and continue to use the CP(US) forms for supply under this PGD, you will be acting illegally.

Use your GPhC number on the Authorisation form and on CP(US) forms.

Unscheduled Care Folder and PGD available online only

The Unscheduled care pharmacy guide is now ONLY available in electronic format. It is the responsibility of each individual and contractor to ensure they are operating to the current, up to date version of the PGD. Health Boards will continue to issue the signed authorisation form required for the PGD to each community pharmacy, and communicate any changes related to confidential information. It will also be the responsibility of each contractor/employer to ensure the NHS Community Pharmacy internet site can be accessed by staff and locums from within the pharmacy for reference when required. http://www.communitypharmacy.scot.nhs.uk/unscheduled_care.html

Please do not hesitate to contact NHS 24 Regional Pharmacy Advisors at pharmacyenquiries@nhs24.scot.nhs.uk if there are any queries using PGD version 24.