# Patient Group Direction (PGD)

# Supply of paracetamol for fever associated with coronavirus (COVID-19) for individuals aged 3 months or over to 11 years of age who are self-isolating by Community Pharmacists

# Version – 0.1

The purpose of the PGD is to allow management of fever associated with coronoavirus (COVID-19) in individuals aged 3 months and older to 11 years of age who are self-isolating by registered pharmacists within Community Pharmacies.

This PGD authorises community pharmacists to supply paracetamol 500mg oral solid dosage form; paracetamol 250mg/5mL oral suspension or paracetamol 120mg in 5mL oral suspension to individuals who are self-isolating aged 3 months and older to 11 years of age with fever and who meet the criteria for inclusion under the terms of the document for a period limited to responding to COVID-19.

## Change history

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Person or group responsible for changes** | **Date changes authorised** | **Version number** |
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## PGD for the supply of paracetamol 500mg oral solid dosage form, paracetamol 250mg in 5mL oral suspension or paracetamol 120mg in 5mL oral suspension, in response to coronavirus (COVID-19) for self-isolated individuals aged 3 months and over to 11 years of age with fever

**Authorisation**

This specimen PGD has been produced by the Area Drugs and Therapeutics Committee Collaborative and the Primary Care Community Pharmacy Group to assist NHS Boards provide uniform services across NHS Scotland. NHS boards should ensure that the final PGD is considered and approved in line with local clinical governance arrangements for PGDs.

The qualified health professionals who may supply paracetamol 500mg oral solid dosage form or paracetamol 250mg in 5mL oral suspension or paracetamol 120mg in 5mL oral suspension under this PGD can only do so as named individuals. It is the responsibility of each professional to practice within the bounds of their own competence and in accordance with their own Code of Professional Conduct, and to ensure familiarity with the marketing authorisation holder’s summary of product characteristics (SPC) for all medicines supplied in accordance with this PGD.

NHS board governance arrangements will indicate how records of staff authorised to operate this PGD will be maintained. Under PGD legislation there can be no delegation. Supply of the medicine has to be by the same practitioner who has assessed the individual under the PGD.

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| **This PGD has been reviewed for NHS insert Board name by:** | | | |
| Doctor |  | Signature |  |
| Pharmacist |  | Signature |  |

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| **Approved on behalf of NHS Insert Board name by:** | | | |
| Medical Director |  | Signature |  |
| Director of Pharmacy/Senior Pharmacist |  | Signature |  |
| Clinical Governance Lead |  | Signature |  |

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| Date Approved | 11/03/2021 |  |  |
| Effective from | 11/03/2021 | Review Date | 11/03/2022 |

**Clinical Situation**

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| Indication/ Definition of situation | Symptomatic relief of fever associated with coronavirus (COVID-19) (suspected or confirmed)  N.B. Supply under this PGD may be made to a representative as the individual with the fever will be unable to attend the pharmacy in person due to at home isolation. The act of making a supply to the individual’s representative does not constitute delegation. The community pharmacist supplying the medicine must undertake the whole episode of care under the PGD.  Fever can be defined as patient symptoms of fever OR recorded temperature over 37.8°C. Symptoms of fever may include sweating, shivering, headache, muscle aches.  This PGD should be used in conjunction with the recommendations in the current British National Formulary (BNF), British National Formulary for Children (BNFC) and the individual Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC). |
| Inclusion Criteria | * Individuals aged 3 months to 11 years of age with fever associated with coronavirus (COVID-19) * Valid consent by individual, individuals advocate/carer. Consent must be in line with current individual Boards consent policy * Individuals advocate/carer must be present at consultation |
| Exclusion Criteria | * Individual aged 12 years and over (see separate PGD) * Individuals with known or suspected hypersensitivity to paracetamol and/or other constituents– review Summary of Product Characteristics of the products under consideration * Individuals with severe hepatic impairment * Individuals with severe renal impairment * Individuals currently taking other medicines containing paracetamol * Where there is no valid consent |
| Precautions and Special Warnings | Paracetamol for supply under this PGD should only be used for individuals with the age range specified in the PGD and with fever.  Individuals who are suffering from any other condition out with the PGD specification should be advised to consider other options for supply, e.g. MAS |
| Cautions /Need for further advice/  Circumstances when further advice should be sought from a doctor | Individuals who have:  • Fever with confusion and/or lethargy  • Shortness of breath   * Reduced urinary output * Cold hands and feet * Worsening of symptoms during home isolation   • Symptoms have not improved after 7 days  Should be told to contact GP surgery/NHS 24 111 service, or call 999 in an emergency e.g. suspected meningitis or sepsis.  Individuals at increased risk of liver toxicity such as chronic malnutrition  Check time and dosing of previous paracetamol doses, ensure 4 hours between doses and maximum daily dose is not exceeded. |
| Action if Excluded | Advice must be sought - Refer to GP practice (in hours)/NHS 24 111 service (out of hours) and document in Patient Medication Record (PMR) or Pharmacy Care Record (PCR).  Individuals who are suffering from any other condition out with the PGD specification should be advised to consider other options for supply, e.g. MAS |
| Action if treatment is Declined | Advise on self-care to relieve symptoms and advise to check [www.nhsinform.scot](http://www.nhsinform.scot) and use the COVID-19 Self Help Guide. Make it clear that if their fever shows no improvement after 7 days, or if any symptoms worsen, they should contact GP practice (in hours)/NHS 24 111 service (out of hours) for advice.  Record outcome in Patient Medication Record (PMR) or Pharmacy Care Record (PCR) if appropriate. |

**Description of Treatment**

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| Name of Medicine | Paracetamol |
| Form/Strength | 500mg tablets, caplets and capsules (POM)  500mg effervescent tablets and soluble tablets (P)  250mg in 5mL oral suspension (P)  120mg in 5mL oral suspension (GSL) |
| Route of administration | Oral |
| Dosage | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | Age Range (est. weight ranges) | Dose | Preferred Product | | 10 – 11 years  (32 -35kg) | 500mg every 4 – 6 hours. Maximum 4 doses in 24 hours. | 500mg tablet or 250mg in 5mL oral suspension if necessary | | 8 -9 years  (25 – 30 kg) | 375mg (7.5mLs of 250mg in 5mL oral suspension) every 4 – 6 hours. Maximum 4 doses in 24 hours. | 250mg in 5mL oral suspension | | 6 – 7 years  (20 – 23kg) | 250mg (5mLs of 250mg in 5mL oral suspension) every 4 – 6 hours. Maximum 4 doses in 24 hours. | 250mg in 5mL oral suspension | | 4 – 5 years  (15 -18kg) | 240mg (10mLs of 120mg in 5mL oral suspension) every 4 – 6 hours. Maximum 4 doses in 24 hours. | 120mg in 5mL oral suspension | | 2-3 years  (11 – 14 kg) | 180mg (7.5mLs of 120mg in 5mL oral suspension) every 4 – 6 hours. Maximum 4 doses in 24 hours. | 120mg in 5mL oral suspension | | 6 months – 23 months  (7.5 – 11kg) | 120mg (5mLs of 120mg in 5mL oral suspension) every 4 – 6 hours. Maximum 4 doses in 24 hours. | 120mg in 5mL oral suspension | | 3 – 5 months | 60mg (2.5mL of 120mg in 5mL oral suspension) every 4 – 6 hours. Maximum 4 doses in 24 hours. | 120mg in 5mL oral suspension | |
| Frequency | See Dosage section above |
| Duration of treatment | See Dosage section above |
| Maximum or minimum treatment period | Only one supply per individual should be made under this PGD |
| Quantity to supply | 500mg tablets/caplets/capsules/effervescent/soluble tablets [1 x 50]  250mg/5mL suspension [1-2 x 100mL or 1 x 200mL]  120mg/5mL suspension [1-2 x 100mL or 1 x 200mL] |
| ▼ additional monitoring | No |
| Legal Status | Paracetamol in a 100 tablet/caplet/capsule pack is a Prescription-only Medicine (POM)  Paracetamol in a 100 effervescent/soluble pack is a Pharmacy-only Medicine (P)  Paracetamol liquid oral suspension 120mg in 5mL and 250mg in 5mL is a Pharmacy-only Medicine (P) or General Sales List (GSL) medicine.  In accordance with the MHRA all medicines supplied under a PGD must either be from over-labelled stock, or be labelled appropriately in accordance with the regulatory body guidelines for the labelling of medicines for the professional providing the supply. |
| Is the use outwith the SPC | No |
| Storage requirements | As per manufacturer’s instructions  Tablets/caplets/capsules/soluble - Store below 25°C in a cool dry place  Effervescent - Store below 30°C. Store in the original container to protect from the moisture and light.  Suspension – Protect from light and store in original container  Ensure preparation is within expiry date |
| Additional information | None |

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| Warnings including possible adverse reactions and management of these | Hypersensitivity reactions including skin rashes and blood disorders have been reported rarely  Speed of absorption may be increased by metoclopramide and domperidone  N.B. Oral coumarin anticoagulants (prolonged regular use may enhance the anticoagulant effect. INR should be checked if individual continues to take paracetamol for more than 5 days)    For a full list of side effects – refer to the marketing authorisation holder’s Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC). A copy of the SPC must be available to the health professional administering medication under this Patient Group Direction. This can be accessed on www.medicines.org.uk |
| Reporting procedure for adverse reactions | Pharmacists should document and report all adverse incidents through their own internal governance systems.  All adverse reactions (actual and suspected) will be reported to the appropriate medical practitioner and recorded patient’s medical record. Pharmacists should record in their PMR and send an SBAR to the GP as appropriate.  Where appropriate, use the Yellow Card System to report adverse drug reactions. Yellow Cards and guidance on its use are available at the back of the BNF or online at <http://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/> |
| Advice to Individual/carer including written information | * Do not take anything else containing paracetamol while taking this medicine * Do not exceed recommended dose * Talk to a doctor at once if the maximum dose is exceeded, even if you feel well. This is because too much paracetamol can cause delayed, serious liver damage * If symptoms of fever show no improvement after 7 days, or symptoms worsen, advise them to contact the NHS 24 111 service. * Inform of possible side effects and their management. The medicine Manufacturer Patient Information Leaflet should be given. * If taking oral coumarin anticoagulants to have INR checked if they continue to take paracetamol regularly for longer than 5 days * If taking cholestyramine not to take at the same as paracetamol as cholestyramine decreases the absorption of paracetamol. Take paracetamol one hour before or 4 – 6 hours after cholestyramine * Patients should be informed who to contact should they experience an adverse drug reaction |
| Monitoring | Not applicable |
| Follow-up | If symptoms worsen or there is no improvement in symptoms after 7 days, seek advice from the NHS 24 111 service. |
| Additional Facilities | The following should be available at sites where the medication is supplied:   * Appropriate storage facilities * An acceptable level of privacy to respect individuals right to confidentiality and safety * Access to a working phone * Access to medical support (this may be via the telephone) * Clean and tidy work areas, including access to hand washing facilities or alcohol hand gel * A copy of the current PGD in print or electronically * Access to current BNF (online version preferred) |

**Characteristics of staff authorised under the PGD**

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| Professional qualifications | Registered pharmacist with current General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) registration.  ***Under PGD legislation there can be no delegation. Supply of the medication has to be by the same practitioner who has assessed the individual under this PGD.*** |
| Specialist competencies or qualifications | Approved by the organisation as:  Competent to assess the individual/person with parenteral responsibilities/individuals representatives’ capacity to understand the nature and purpose of the medication supply in order to give or refuse consent.  Aware of current treatment recommendations and be competent to discuss issues about the medication with the individual.  Competent to make a supply of the medicine(s).  Competent to work under this PGD.  Must be familiar with the relevant paracetamol Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC). |
| Continuing education and training | All professional working under this PGD must:  Have undertaken PGD training as required/set out by each individual Health Board  Attends approved training and training updates as appropriate. |

**Documentation**

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| Authorisation of supply | Pharmacist can be authorised to supply the medicine(s) specified in this PGD by their Director of Pharmacy.  All authorised staff are required to read the PGD and sign the individual authorisation |
| Record/Audit Trail | All records must be clear, legible and in an easily retrieval format in order to allow audit of practice.  Pharmacists must record in Patient Medication Record (PMR) or Pharmacy Care Record (PCR).  The following records should be kept (paper or computer based):   * Date and time of supply * Individuals name and Date of Birth (or CHI if available) * Record that valid consent to treatment under this PGD was obtained * The name, dose, form of the medicines supplied * Advice given, including advice given if excluded or declined treatment under this PGD * Signature and name in capital letters of the healthcare professional who supplied the medicine * Record of any adverse effects (advise individuals GP/relevant medical practitioner)   These records should be retained in accordance with local/national guidance. |
| Additional references | Electronic Medicines Compendium  <http://www.medicines.org.uk>  Paracetamol 500mg caplets SmPC (M & A Pharmachem Ltd) Paracetamol 500mg effervescent tablets SmPC (Accord Healthcare Limited)  Paracetamol 500mg soluble tablets SmPC (Zentiva)  Paracetamol 250mg/5mL Oral suspension sachets SmPC (Rosemont Brand)  Paracetamol 120mg/5mL Oral suspension sachets SmPC (Rosemont Brand)  British National Formulary (BNF) and British National Formulary for Children  <http://about.medicinescomplete.com/> |

## PGD for the supply of paracetamol 500mg oral solid dosage form, paracetamol 250mg in 5mL oral suspension or paracetamol 120mg in 5mL oral suspension, in response to coronavirus (COVID-19) for self-isolated individuals aged 3 months or over to 11 years of age with fever

**Individual Authorisation**

***PGD does not remove inherent professional obligations or accountability***

**It is the responsibility of each professional to practice only within the bounds of their own competence and in accordance with the General Pharmaceutical Council Standards for Pharmacy Professionals.**

**Note to Authorising Authority:** authorised staff should be provided with access to the clinical content of the PGD and a copy of the document showing their authorisation.

I have read and understood the Patient Group Direction authorised by each of the individual NHS Boards that I wish to operate in and agree to provide paracetamol 500mg oral solid dosage form, paracetamol 250mg in 5mL oral suspension or paracetamol 120mg in 5mL oral suspension

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| Name of Pharmacist | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| GPhC Registration Number | Click or tap here to enter text. |

Normal Pharmacy Location

**(Only one Pharmacy name and contractor code is required for each Health Board (HB) area where appropriate. If you work in more than 3 HB areas please use additional forms.)**

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| Name & Contractor code HB (1) | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Name & Contractor code HB (2) | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Name & Contractor code HB (3) | Click or tap here to enter text. |

Please indicate your position within the pharmacy by ticking one of the following:

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| Locum |  |  | Employee |  |  | Manager |  |  | Owner |  |

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| Signature | Click or tap here to enter text. | Date | Click or tap to enter a date. |

Please tick and send to each Health Board you work in. Fax numbers, email and postal addresses are given overleaf.

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| Ayrshire & Arran |  |  | Grampian |  |  | Orkney |  |  |

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| Borders |  |  | Gr Glasgow & Clyde |  |  | Shetland |  |  |

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| Dumfries & Galloway |  |  | Highland |  |  | Tayside |  |  |

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| Fife |  |  | Lanarkshire |  |  | Western Isles |  |  |

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| Forth Valley |  |  | Lothian |  |

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| NHS Board | Address | Fax Number |
| Ayrshire & Arran | Mr Allan Thomas, NHS Ayrshire & Arran,  Eglington House, Ailsa Hospital,  Dalmellington Road, Ayr, KA6 6AB  [Angela.oumoussa@aapct.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:Angela.oumoussa@aapct.scot.nhs.uk) | Please e-mail or post |
| Borders | Adrian Mackenzie, Lead Pharmacist  Pharmacy Department, Borders General Hospital, Melrose, TD6 9BS  [communitypharmacy.team@borders.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:adrian.mackenzie@borders.scot.nhs.uk) | Please e-mail or post |
| Dumfries & Galloway | NHS Dumfries & Galloway, Primary Care Development, Ground Floor North, Mountainhall Treatment Centre, Bankend Rd, Dumfries, DG1 4TG  [dumf-uhb.pcd@nhs.net](mailto:dumf-uhb.pcd@nhs.net) | Please e-mail or post |
| Fife | PGD Administrator, Pharmacy Services, NHS Fife,  Pentland House, Lynebank Hospital, Halbeath Road,  Dunfermline, KY11 4UW  [Fife-uhb.pgd@nhs.net](mailto:Fife-uhb.pgd@nhs.net) | Please e-mail or post |
| Forth Valley | Community Pharmacy Development Team, Forth Valley Royal Hospital, Stirling Road, Larbert, FK5 4WR  [FV-UHB.communitypharmacysupport@nhs.net](mailto:FV-UHB.communitypharmacysupport@nhs.net) | Please email or post |
| Grampian | Pharmaceutical Care Services Team  NHS Grampian, Pharmacy & Medicines Directorate,  Westholme, Woodend, Queens Road,  Aberdeen, AB15 6LS  [nhsg.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.net](mailto:nhsg.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.net) | Please e-mail or post |
| Greater Glasgow  & Clyde | Janine Glen, Contracts Manager, Community Pharmacy, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde,  Clarkston Court, 56 Busby Road, Glasgow G76 7AT  [GG-UHB.cpdevteam@nhs.net](mailto:GG-UHB.cpdevteam@nhs.net) | 0141 201 6044  Or email |
| Highland | Community Pharmaceutical Services, NHS Highland,  Assynt House, Beechwood Park, Inverness. IV2 3BW [high-uhb.cpsoffice@nhs.net](mailto:high-uhb.cpsoffice@nhs.net) | Please e-mail or post |
| Lanarkshire | Pharmacy/Prescribing Admin Team,  NHS Lanarkshire Headquarters, Kirklands, Fallside Road, Bothwell, G71 8BB | 01698 858271 |
| Lothian | Primary Care Contractor Organisation, 2ND Floor, Waverley Gate, 2-4 Waterloo Place, Edinburgh, EH1 3EG  [CommunityPharmacy.Contract@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:CommunityPharmacy.Contract@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk) | Please e-mail or post |
| Orkney | Sylvia Robertson, Primary Care Pharmacist,  NHS Orkney, Balfour Hospital, New Scapa Road, Kirkwall, Orkney KW15 1BH | 01856 888 061 |
| Shetland | Mary McFarlane,  Principle Pharmacist, NHS Shetland, Gilbert Bain Hospital, Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 0TB | 01595 743356 |
| Tayside | Diane Robertson  Pharmacy Department, East Day Home, Kings Cross Hospital, Clepington Road, Dundee, DD3 8AE | No fax, please post |
| Western Isles | Stephan Smit, Primary Care Dept,  The Health Centre, Springfield Road, Stornoway,  Isle of Lewis, HS1 2PS | No fax, please post |