NATIONAL PATIENT GROUP DIRECTION FOR THE URGENT PROVISION OF CURRENT MEDICINES, APPLIANCES AND ACBS PRODUCTS LISTED IN THE BNF & BNFC, TO NHS PATIENTS BY PHARMACISTS

Purpose

The purpose of this Patient Group Direction (PGD) is to allow patients to receive their medicines, appliances and/or ACBS products from a pharmacist when they have lost or run out of them. The patient's prescriber must be unavailable at the time, there must be a clinical need for the supply, and it must be clinically appropriate to make the supply.

Background

A patient who runs out of or loses their prescribed medicines, appliances and/or ACBS product and cannot obtain a prescription for further supplies within a reasonable period can obtain an emergency supply from a pharmacist. Pharmacists can issue emergency supplies provided certain conditions for supply are met in accordance with the Human Medicines Regulations 2012.

The PGD for urgent provision of medicines, appliances and ACBS products was introduced by NHS Scotland in 2005 as an alternative to an emergency supply under the Medicines Act 1968. It was implemented by NHS Boards to enable pharmacists located in premises with a NHS Pharmaceutical Care Service Contract to provide patients with up to one prescribing cycle or course of their medicines, appliances and/or ACBS products when the patient's prescriber is unavailable.

The majority of clinical care should be provided on an individual, patient-specific basis. Supply 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.

Scope of Urgent Provision PGD

The PGD supports a supply of most medicines, appliances and ACBS products (with some exceptions) in the current British National Formulary (BNF) and the British National Formulary for Children (BNFC). Some medicines, appliances and/or ACBS products listed in the BNF and BNFC are excluded and these are specifically highlighted within the PGD.

Use of the PGD can be from a request direct from the patient, the patient's representative, the patient's prescriber; an out-of-hours collaborative, NHS 24 and hospital A&E Departments.

During the COVID-19 outbreak, emergency measures may be deployed by the Scottish Government and/or your local Health Board in order to maintain the supply of essential medicines to patients. The Government/Board will be clear on exactly what measures are introduced and operated. Until such times, this PGD should operate as normal where supply of medicines covered by Part A continue to be allowed, and those covered by Part B continue to be disallowed from supply.

Authority for Use

This PGD has been developed under the control of NHS Scotland, by medical and pharmaceutical clinicians and authorised for use by each individual NHS board. Pharmacists may only use the PGD if it has been authorised by the NHS board in their area. The pharmacist using the PGD must read, agree and sign the PGD and can begin operating under the PGD immediately after signing.

Universal Claim Form (UCF) Processing

The UCF will be processed similar to a GP prescription, and the pharmacy contractor shall receive the ingredient cost as reimbursement. The cost of the medicines, appliances and/or ACBS products will be attributed to the patient's own GP. Information regarding patient details and the supply made under the PGD should be passed on to the patient's prescriber.

Information on urgent supplies made under these arrangements will be published from time to time as requested by NHS boards and the Scottish Government Health and Social Care Directorates.

Legal Liability

As with any other professional activity the liability for actions taken under this PGD lies with the pharmacist making the supply.