

## PATIENT GROUP DIRECTION FOR THE SUPPLY OF DOXYCYCLINE FOR TREATMENT OF CHLAMYDIA AND NGU, CONTACTS OF CHLAMYDIA OR CONTACTS OF NON-GONOCOCCAL URETHRITIS (NGU) PRESENTING WITH TREATMENT VOUCHER TO COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS

### MANAGEMENT OF PATIENT GROUP DIRECTION

This Patient Group Direction must be read, agreed to and signed by all healthcare professionals involved in its use. The original signed copy should be held by a designated person and must be easily accessible to healthcare professionals in the clinical setting. In all cases the healthcare professional will follow the code of conduct as defined by their professional body.

	Name	Signature	/D/ate
<b>Developed by LOCAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM</b>			
<b>Doctor</b>	Dr Sally Wielding		18/06/25
<b>Practitioner</b>	Michelle Wood		22/05/25
<b>Pharmacist</b>	Garry Todd		22/05/25

<b>Approved by PGD SUB-GROUP OF THE MEDICINES POLICY COMMITTEE</b>			
<b>Chairperson</b>	Jane Browning		28/07/2025
<b>Chairperson</b>	Pat Wynne		28/07/2025

<b>Approved by AUTHORISED NHS LOTHIAN DRUGS AND THERAPEUTICS COMMITTEE</b>			
<b>Chairperson/Deputy of Committee</b>	Dr Emma Morrison		28/07/2025
<b>Chairperson/Deputy of Committee</b>	Scott Garden		28/07/2025
<b>AUTHORISED BY</b>			
<b>Medical Director</b>	Ms Tracey Gillies		28/07/2025

<b>LOCAL MANAGEMENT</b>			
<b>Practice/Ward/Department/Directorate</b>			
<b>Clinical Lead</b>			
<b>Practitioner Manager (if applicable)</b>			
<b>Pharmacist (if applicable)</b>			
<b>Name of Designated PGD Holder</b> <small>(Responsible for ensuring names of healthcare professionals issuing under this PGD are kept up to date)</small>			
<b>DATE AUTHORISED FOR USE</b>	<b>REVIEW DATE</b>	<b>EXPIRY DATE</b>	
28/07/2025	28/07/2027	28/07/2028	

Contractor Code	
Locum	

**AUTHORISED PRACTITIONER LIST:**

*I have read and understood the Patient Group Direction and agree to use it and acknowledge that it is my responsibility to maintain my knowledge, skills and competencies through CPD.*

[illegible]

1. CHARACTERISTICS OF STAFF	
<b>Qualifications and Professional Registration</b>	Registered Pharmacist with current GPhC Registration, working in community pharmacy in NHS Lothian, signed up to provide treatment of chlamydia and non-specific gonococcal urethritis via service level agreement.
<b>Qualifications Required</b>	GPhC Registration
<b>Additional requirements</b>	<p>Undertaken Continuing Professional Development (CPD) to ensure understanding of areas related to the pharmacy service in relation to Chlamydia infection</p> <p>Online learning/update regularly from Lothian and Reproductive Health services to cover evaluation of Chlamydia and NGU infection and voucher system.</p> <p>Understanding of potential complications of Chlamydia infection such as pelvic inflammatory disease, using the checklist and when to refer patients to Lothian sexual and reproductive health services (LSRHS) for further assessment and treatment</p> <p>Understanding of how to assess risk of pregnancy in line with the checklist and refer to LSRHS if required</p> <p>Undertaken appropriate training for working under PGDs for the supply of medicines .Examples include : NICE competency framework for PGDs <a href="#">Tools and resources   Patient group directions   Guidance   NICE Introduction to PGDs – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice</a></p> <p>Able to assess the person's capacity to understand the nature and purpose of the medication to give or refuse consent</p> <p>Basic understanding of public protection guidance including assessing risk factors for Child protection and Adult protection concerns</p> <p>Basic understanding of assessing service users under the age of 16</p> <p>The TURAS e-learning package on Public Protection (the informed and skilled modules for Adult and Child protection) should be completed The module is available on the NES Portal (<a href="https://portal.scot.nhs.uk">https://portal.scot.nhs.uk</a>). The training must be satisfactorily completed as per NES performance indicators by completing the appropriate assessments to a satisfactory standard.</p>
<b>Continued training requirements</b>	Updates on the management of chlamydial infection and non-gonococcal urethritis (NGU) through community pharmacy / LSRH training updates

2. DESCRIPTION OF TREATMENT	
<b>Names of Medicines included</b>	Doxycycline
<b>Marketing Authorisation</b> (previously UK Product Licence)	YES
<b>Outwith terms of the Summary of Product Characteristics</b>	NO
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Pharmacist Check</b>	
<b>Controlled Drugs</b> If YES, consultation with CDGT to check legal compliance	NO
<b>Antibiotic</b> If YES, consultation with Microbiologist/Antimicrobial Management Team	Yes – aligns with local treatment guidelines.
<b>Children under 13 years of age to be treated</b> If YES, consultation with Neonatologist, Paediatrician, Public Health or Unscheduled Care	NO
<b>Record / Audit trail</b>	<p>The Patient Medication Record (PMR) system record is used to document when PGD used against patient details/voucher</p> <p>Specific recording requirements as per NHS Lothian:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>that valid informed consent was given</li> <li>name of individual, address, date of birth and GP with whom the individual is registered (if relevant)</li> <li>name of registered health professional</li> <li>name of medication supplied/administered</li> <li>date of supply/administration</li> <li>dose, form and route of supply/administration</li> <li>quantity supplied/administered</li> <li>batch number and expiry date (if applicable)</li> <li>advice given, including advice given if excluded or declines treatment</li> <li>details of any adverse drug reactions and actions taken</li> <li>supplied via Patient Group Direction (PGD) number .....</li> </ul> <p>Patient details and voucher number is documented on the patient consultation / checklist</p>

	<p>Treatment voucher number/details to be returned to health advisors at NHS Lothian Sexual Health Service Sexual Health for payment processing using a community pharmacy payment claim form</p> <p>Testing, processing of results and vouchers issued are entered via NASH – Scottish sexual health electronic record system by Lothian sexual health staff / Chalmers Centre</p>
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### 3.1 MEDICINES and CLINICAL CONDITION

<b>Name of medicine</b>	Doxycycline
<b>Define situation/condition</b>	<p>Uncomplicated Chlamydia infection or non-gonococcal urethritis (NGU)</p> <p>Contacts of Chlamydia or NGU infection - asymptomatic</p> <p>Pharmacists will be presented with a SMS 'voucher' stating Chlamydia diagnosis or as a named contact. Pharmacy will then assess clinical appropriateness of PGD use using Doxycycline as treatment option. Refer to LSRHS if assessed as not appropriate under PGD criteria. Information and checklist found at</p> <p><a href="http://www.communitypharmacy.scot.nhs.uk/nhs-lothian/pages/patient-group-directions-pgds/">www.communitypharmacy.scot.nhs.uk/nhs-lothian/pages/patient-group-directions-pgds/</a></p> <p>Vouchers should be checked they are within 14 days of being sent /issued – they expire after 14 days and will need re-instated – refer back to Chalmers Centre – contact details within referral, patient monitoring and follow up section</p> <p>The vouchers should state:</p> <p><b>Your Chlamydia test is positive. Attend a pharmacy from this link to collect treatment using the voucher AN00000000: <a href="https://bit.ly/3G0ERjJ">https://bit.ly/3G0ERjJ</a> Before you collect treatment read this checklist: <a href="http://www.lothiansexualhealth.scot/sti-testing/chlamydia-voucher/">www.lothiansexualhealth.scot/sti-testing/chlamydia-voucher/</a> voucher expires 14 days.</b></p> <p>OR for contacts</p> <p><b>“Attend a pharmacy from this link to collect treatment using the voucher CON/4-digits-index-AN. <a href="https://bit.ly/3G0ERjJ">https://bit.ly/3G0ERjJ</a> before you collect treatment read this checklist: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/3jsp7h7y">https://tinyurl.com/3jsp7h7y</a> voucher expires 14 days.”</b></p> <p>Vouchers should then be deleted within pharmacy premises to avoid duplicate use</p>

<b>Criteria for inclusion (including patient group)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Patients who have been diagnosed with chlamydia/NGU presenting with a treatment voucher from LSRH services</li> <li>▪ Contacts of patients who have been diagnosed with chlamydia/NGU presenting with a treatment voucher from LSRH services</li> <li>▪ Consent given</li> <li>▪ Aged 13 years and over</li> </ul>
<b>Criteria for exclusion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Known allergy or hypersensitivity to doxycycline, other tetracycline antibiotics or to any component of the product - see <a href="#">Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC)</a></li> <li>• Patient using Interacting medicines listed within the Interactions section are excluded - <b>please refer to Chalmers Centre</b></li> <li>• Patients who will have sun / UV exposure and not able or willing to take preventative measures – <b>please refer to Chalmers Centre for alternative treatment options</b></li> <li>• Consent not given</li> <li>• Individuals under 13 years of age</li> <li>• Individuals under 16 years old and assessed as lacking capacity to consent using the Fraser Guidelines</li> <li>• Individuals 16 years of age and over and assessed as lacking capacity to consent.</li> <li>• Actual or suspected pregnancy</li> <li>• Breastfeeding</li> <li>• Renal or hepatic impairment</li> <li>• Systemic lupus erythematosus</li> <li>• Myasthenia gravis</li> <li>• Acute porphyria</li> <li>• Individuals with oesophagitis</li> <li>• swelling of the lymph nodes</li> <li>• swelling or pain at the anus</li> <li>• recent pain in your lower abdomen</li> <li>• pain in your testicles</li> <li>• pain inside the vagina when having vaginal sex</li> <li>• pain inside the anus when having anal sex</li> <li>• abnormal or unscheduled bleeding from the vagina or anus</li> <li>• a high temperature or you feel very unwell</li> <li>• Termination of pregnancy within the last 4 weeks</li> <li>• Intra-uterine contraceptive device (a coil) inserted in the last 4 weeks</li> <li>• Patients are asked to refer to online checklist prior to attending local pharmacy for treatment and to contact Chalmers centre if do not fit criteria</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.lothiansexualhealth.scot/sti-testing/chlamydia-voucher/">www.lothiansexualhealth.scot/sti-testing/chlamydia-voucher/</a></li> </ul>

<b>Action if excluded</b>	<p>Advise to contact either NHS Lothian Sexual Health Service or patient's own GP Chalmers Centre 2a Chalmers Street 0131 536 1070/2108</p> <p>Contact NHS 24 / 111 if symptoms urgent / concerning</p> <p>Follow local guidelines for management of Public / Child protection concerns</p>
<b>Action if patient declines</b>	<p>Advise to contact either NHS Lothian Sexual Health Service or patient's own GP Chalmers Centre 2a Chalmers Street 0131 536 1070/2108</p> <p>Contact NHS 24 / 111 if symptoms urgent / concerning</p>
<b>Pharmaceutical form and strength of medicine</b>	<p>Doxycycline 100mg capsules Doxycycline 50mg capsules Doxycycline 100mg dispersible tablets</p>
<b>POM / P / GSL / ▼</b>	POM
<b>Dose</b>	100mg
<b>Route/Method</b>	Orally
<b>Frequency (To include maximum/minimum timescales)</b>	Twice daily for seven days
<b>Total dose/number</b>	14
<b>Drug interactions and action to be taken</b>	<p>All concurrent medications should be reviewed for interactions. A detailed list of all drug interactions is available in the <a href="#">BNF</a> or the product <a href="#">SPC</a></p> <p><b>Drug interactions – If patients are taking the following medications they are excluded from the PGD and referred to Chalmers Centre or local sexual health service</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Isotretinoin</li> <li>• Tretinoin /Retinoids</li> <li>• Lithium</li> <li>• Live cholera or typhoid vaccines</li> <li>• Warfarin</li> <li>• Atovaquone</li> <li>• Carbamazepine</li> <li>• Ergotamine and methysergide</li> <li>• Ciclosporin</li> <li>• Colestipol and colestyramine</li> <li>• Methotrexate</li> <li>• Methoxyflurane penicillins</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phenindione</li> <li>• Phenytoin and fosphenytoin</li> <li>• Phenobarbital</li> <li>• Primidone</li> <li>• Quinapril</li> <li>• Rifampicin</li> <li>• Strontium ranelate</li> <li>• Sucralfate</li> <li>• Sulphonylureas</li> </ul>
<b>Cautions (including action to be taken if caution applies)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Doxycycline can cause photosensitivity resulting in skin reactions.</li> <li>▪ Patients must be cautioned to avoid sun exposure, sunbeds/lamps and to use appropriate protective measures such as sunblock, hats etc</li> <li>▪ If photosensitivity occurs the patient should be advised to discontinue treatment and contact the NHS Lothian Sexual Health Service / LSRHS Local clinic for advice</li> <li>▪ The absorption of doxycycline may be impaired by concurrently administered antacids or other drugs containing aluminium, calcium, magnesium zinc, iron, bismuth or kaolin. <b>Dosages should be separated ideally by at least 2 hours before doxycycline or 6 hours after doxycycline</b></li> <li>▪ Giving iron 3 hours before or 2 to 3 hours after the tetracycline seems to avoid this interaction with most tetracyclines, <b>although with doxycycline the interaction seems to occur to some extent even with a separation of 11 hours.</b> <sup>(5)</sup> Patients who are taking regular/prescribed iron must seek advice from the prescriber/GP as to whether iron can be stopped temporarily during doxycycline treatment</li> </ul> <p><b>If visual disturbance occurs during treatment, prompt medical/ ophthalmologic evaluation is warranted, by contacting GP / Chalmers Centre or 111/NHS 24 if urgent</b></p>
<b>Adverse reactions and side effects including actions to be taken if adverse drug reaction is suspected (▼ - include yellow card details)</b>	<p>A detailed list of adverse reactions is available in the <a href="#">SPC</a> and <a href="#">BNF</a></p> <p>Gastric upsets are common and include; abdominal pain, anorexia, nausea, vomiting*, diarrhoea*, dyspepsia and rarely dysphagia.</p> <p>* If patient is taking oral contraceptive pills and vomiting within 2 hours of taking the pill or severe diarrhoea occurs, follow advice as for missed pills. Refer to the most recent FSRH advice for directions to minimise the risk of contraceptive failure.</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If GI side effect not self-resolving, refer to patient's own GP</li> <li>▪ Rarer side effects include: Clostridium difficile overgrowth, hepatotoxicity, pancreatitis, blood disorders, tinnitus, arthralgia and myalgia, rashes, photosensitivity, headaches, benign intracranial hypertension, visual disturbances and discoloration/enamel hypoplasia (usually on long-term use).</li> <li>▪ Serious skin reactions, such as exfoliative dermatitis, erythema multiforme, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis, and Drug Reaction with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms (DRESS) have been rarely reported in patients receiving doxycycline.</li> <li>▪ If serious skin reactions occur, doxycycline should be discontinued immediately, and appropriate therapy should be instituted</li> <li>▪ For the rarer side effects refer to a medical practitioner at the NHS Lothian Sexual Health Service / LSRHS Local Clinic</li> <li>▪ Hypersensitivity reactions including anaphylaxis are rare- advise patient to call 999 if experiencing a hypersensitivity reaction</li> <li>▪ Adverse drug reactions should be recorded in the patient's record</li> <li>▪ If a serious adverse reaction is suspected please report to the MHRA/Commission on Human Medicines via the Yellow Card Scheme <a href="http://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/">http://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/</a></li> </ul>
<b>Additional advice and information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Should be taken with fluids e.g. full glass of water in either a sitting or standing position</li> <li>▪ Can be taken with milk or during meals to avoid gastric irritation.</li> <li>▪ Second daily dose should be taken at least one hour before going to bed to avoid the risk of gastric irritation</li> <li>▪ Advise to contact the NHS Lothian Sexual Health Service / local Clinic if condition worsens or symptoms develop</li> <li>▪ Manufacturers Patient Information Leaflet should be given.</li> <li>• Advise to abstain completely from sexual intercourse (even with condoms) including oral sex, during treatment and until treatment course completed and until partner(s) treatment completed.</li> <li>• Advise to avoid exposure to direct sunlight or ultraviolet light including sunbeds/lamps .Patients who are unable/unwilling to take precautions against UV exposure should be referred to the Chalmers Centre to discuss alternative treatment options</li> <li>• For any worsening advice please contact Chalmers Centre on 0131 536 1070 or 111/NHS 24 for urgent concerns</li> </ul>

Referral, patient monitoring and follow-up	<p>Return treatment voucher to the NHS Lothian Sexual Health Service with Pharmacy details to ensure cross referencing for payment and confirmation of voucher use</p> <p>Contact Chalmers Health Advisors team on 0131 536 2108/0131 536 1070 should there be questions or queries</p> <p>The individual should be advised to seek medical advice in the event of an adverse reaction.</p>
Records	<p>Complete and retain consultation form.</p> <p>A record of all individuals receiving treatment under this PGD should also be kept for audit purposes in accordance with local policy.</p> <p>See Record Audit Trail above</p>

#### 4. REFERENCES

1. BASHH Guidelines 2015 UK National guideline for the management of the infection of Chlamydia trachomatis last accessed 21/05/2025 via <https://www.bashh.org/guidelines>
2. BASHH Guidelines 2015 UK National guideline for the management of non-gonococcal urethritis last accessed 21/05/2025 via <https://www.bashhguidelines.org/media/1051/ngu-2015.pdf>
3. BNF Doxycycline last accessed via <https://www.medicinescomplete.com> on 21/05/2025
4. Doxycycline SmPC last accessed 03/12/2024 last updated 06/12/2021 via <http://www.medicines.org.uk>
5. Medicines Complete (2025). *Digital Medicines Information Suite*. [online] MedicinesComplete. Available at: <https://www.medicinescomplete.com/#/interactions/stockley>.