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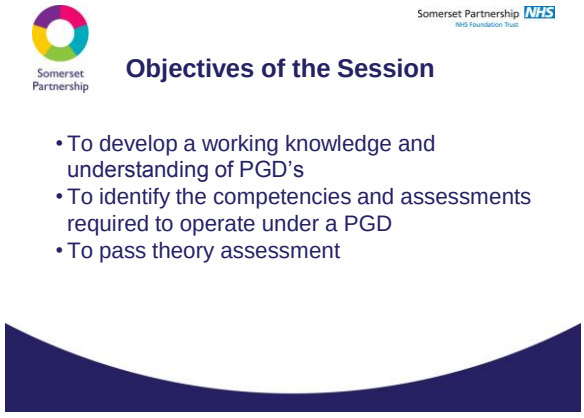
PATIENT GROUP DIRECTIONS (PGD'S)
Clinical Development Practitioner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Objectives of the Session
• To develop a working knowledge and understanding of PGD's
• To identify the competencies and assessments required to operate under a PGD
• To pass theory assessment

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Background Legislation
• In August 2000 new legislation came into effect on the supply and administration of medicines.
• The legal framework enables supply and administration of a medicine directly to a patient without a prescription from a doctor or another independent prescriber (i:e a dentist or nurse)
Review of the Prescribing ,Supply and Administration Of Medicines – 1998 Health Service Circular HSC 2000/026

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Drug Classifications

- 1968 Medicines Act regulated use of medicines in UK. Each medicine needs a marketing authorisation. Drugs are divided into three classifications before being used by the public.

- GSL- general sales list.
- P – pharmacy medicine (over the counter)
- POM – prescription only medicine

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Prescribing

- Prescribers see a patient and after assessment and diagnosis, the need for a medicine is established as part of the treatment plan. A prescription is issued and dispensed.

- This is still the preferred route for patients to receive their medication.

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What is a Patient Group Direction?

- Patient group directions (PGD's) are specific written instructions for the supply or administration of a licensed named medicine, including vaccines, to specific groups of patients who may not be individually identified before presenting for treatment

NMC – Standards for Medicines Management. 2007

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Patient Group Direction (PGD)

- A PGD allows a range of healthcare professionals to supply and /or administer to a patient if they fit within an identified clinical criteria given in the PGD. The patient does not have to see a doctor or a qualified prescriber.

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Why use a PGD?

Patient focussed care

Changes to service delivery

Ease of access to medication for patient

Changes in professional practice

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Who can work under a PGD?

- Midwives
- Nurses
- Optometrists / Orthotics
- Podiatrists and Chiropodists
- Radiographers
- Physiotherapists
- Ambulance paramedics
- Pharmacists

These professionals may only work under a PGD as a named individual.

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Criteria for using PGD's

The individual practitioner must:

Be registered members of their profession.
Act within their code of conduct.
Voluntarily agree to use each PGD.
Sign the appropriate documentation.
Be named on each PGD.
Have received appropriate in – house training and competency assessment.

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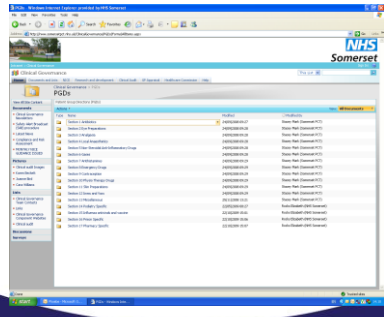
Available PGDs



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Producing PGD's

- PGD's should be **produced** by a multi-disciplinary group (doctor, pharmacist, representative lead professional).
- PGD's should be **authorised** by the organisation they are to be used within.
- PGD's should be **signed** by the doctor, pharmacist and the organisation in which they are to be used.
- The full governance framework for producing PGD's is on the Pharmacy website.

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What should be in a PGD?

Legislation stipulates what a PGD must contain:

- Name of business to which the PGD applies
- Date PGD commences and the date it expires.
- Description of medicine(s) to which the PGD applies.
- Class of health professional who may supply or administer the medicine.
- Signature of doctor, pharmacist, organisation

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What should be in a PGD ? cont..

- Clinical condition to which PGD applies.
- Patients to be included and excluded.
- Circumstances when further advice should be sought from a doctor/dentist and how to refer
- Appropriate dose, maximum total dose, quantity, pharmaceutical form and strength, route and frequency of administration, minimum/ maximum period over which the medicine should be administered.

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What Should Be In A PGD? Cont…

- Relevant warnings, potential adverse reactions
- Details of follow up actions
- Record keeping information

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National Prescribing Centre (NPC) Competency Framework

Divided into three areas of competence:

1.
   - Clinical and Pharmaceutical Knowledge
   - Establishing options
   - Communicating with the patient
2.
   - Safe PGD use
   - Professional standards
   - Practice Developments
3.
   - Information in context
   - NHS context
   - Team and individual context!

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Professional Accountability

- Clinicians are accountable for their own actions and omissions. This includes signing to operate under a PGD.
- Clinicians need to be able to demonstrate their competence to operate under a PGD by completing a competency for each PGD which is assessed in practice by a competent practitioner.
- You can only administer/supply medication if you have signed to operate under that PGD

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Assessment

- As part of the theoretical training each individual professional will be required to pass an assessment .This component requires being undertaken only once.
- Competency to undertake each individual PGD will be assessed in practice using a specified format.

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Appendix 6. Competency Assessment.

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	Please answer true or false	
1.	Authorisation from a suitable health organisation is required as a PGD.	
2.	PGDs were developed following the Crown report.	
3.	PGD legislation applies to all private and NHS Care.	
4.	PGDs can be written for controlled drugs.	
5.	PGDs can be written for black triangle drugs.	
6.	PGDs can be written for unlicensed drugs.	
7.	PGDs can be written for antibiotics.	
8.	The PGD must state the professional group to which it applies.	
9.	The PGD must state the clinical condition to which it applies.	
10.	The PGD must state the possible complications of the condition to which it applies.	
11.	Medicines supplied under a PGD are exempt from normal labelling requirements.	
12.	Medicines supplied under a PGD should normally be pre-packs made up / supplied by pharmacy.	
13.	Medicines supplied under a PGD must be recorded in a clinical audit and stock reconciliation.	
14.	Medicines supplied under a PGD must always be used in accordance with their product licence.	
15.	Individuals authorised under a PGD must be identified by name.	
16.	Individuals authorised under a PGD must be determined competent to operate under the PGD.	
17.	Professional codes of conductor not apply when working under a PGD.	
18.	A microbiologist is not to be involved in developing a PGD for an antibiotic.	
19.	Individuals authorised under a PGD should sign/accommodate to confirm their acceptance of the PGD.	
20.	PGD must state the date the direction expires.	
21.	Individuals must be registered members of their profession.	
22.	Concentrations not need to be guided from the patient.	
23.	The practitioner does not have any responsibility to remain clinically updated.	
24.	The Affects should be explained.	
25.	[illegible]	