

Section 13 - Patient Group Directions (PGDs)

The majority of clinical care should be provided on an individual, patient-specific basis. The supply and administration of medicines by PGDs should be reserved for those limited situations where specific medicines are used very routinely within a defined patient population and where assessment and management can be safely delegated.

1. Patient Group Directions (PGDs) are authorisation for the supply and administration of medicine(s) to patients by designated trained staff in the absence of a specific prescription from a qualified prescriber.
2. All staff involved in developing and reviewing a PGD are accountable for the content and must ensure that the supply and/or administration of medicines under a PGD offers benefits for patient care without compromising safety.
3. Schedule 2 and 3 controlled drugs, unlicensed medicines, medicines being used outside their licensed indications and medicines being used in clinical trials are all excluded from this policy. The exceptions to this are :-
 - Diamorphine is permitted for accident and emergency and coronary care units for cardiac pain only
 - Midazolam, which can be included in a PGD.
4. PGDs must be prepared with the full knowledge and support of the multidisciplinary team and relevant professional managers i.e. Pharmacy, Nursing, Allied Health Professionals and Medical staff.
5. Consultant staff retain full responsibility for the use of medicines detailed in the PGD and retain ultimate responsibility for the actions of all staff involved in its implementation.

For further advice on the preparation and application of PGDs please contact –
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