

HOW TO DEVELOP A PATIENT GROUP DIRECTION (PGD)

1. How do I begin ?

A local senior doctor and pharmacist must agree to take on the development of the Patient Group Direction. Representatives from other professions likely to provide care through the Patient Group Direction must be involved.

The “Framework for Development of Patient Group Directions” sets out the steps to be undertaken.

2. What types of care should be delivered through a Patient Group Direction ?

The Patient Group Direction must only be used in situations in which individualised care cannot be given. The Patient Group Direction must not expose the patient to any additional risks. The Patient Group Direction must confer quantifiable advantages to the patient.

Patient Group Directions should allow:

- Timely access to treatment
- Reduce patient waiting times
- Speed patient discharge or avoid hospitalisation
- Appropriate use of professional skills
- Maximising use of available resources

Other routes of providing care should be considered:

- Nurse prescribing
- Protocols for care e.g. symptomatic relief
- Individualised care pathways that are authorised by a prescriber

The algorithm, “To PGD or Not to PGD? - That is the Question” should help to make the decision.

3. What next?

A protocol of care should be written, drawing on current evidence and best practice.

Treatment records for the PGD should be designed.

Patient information leaflets should be written or obtained.

Referral arrangements for patients who do not fit the PGD should be made.

Local views of lead clinicians in the CHP/Clinical Group/Directorate should be sought.

The training needs of practitioners who would use the Patient Group Direction are assessed.

The actions required by local managers, where the PGD will operate should be explained.

Arrangements for obtaining packs of medicines for supply to patients should be made.

An audit cycle for the PGD should be designed.

Arrangements for annual review and resubmission must be made.

4. So you are ready to use the PGD!

Check off that the PGD would comply with all the terms in the “Screening Tool for the Development of PGDs”.

The NHS Tayside Drug and Therapeutics Committee, through a PGD Sub-Committee must then ratify the PGD. Send all the relevant documentation to the Secretary of the D&T Committee.

The Drug and Therapeutics Committee advises the Clinical Governance Lead that NHS Tayside can assume responsibility for employees providing care under the PGD.