

Working under a Patient Group Direction

Patient Group Directions (PGDs) are legal documents allowing the supply or administration of Prescription Only Medicines (POMs) without the use of a prescription. They can only be used in certain defined situations and by certain specified health professionals.

PGDs are mainly used for the administration of routine vaccination programme within Northamptonshire. NHS England is now responsible for the routine vaccination programme and the Local Area Team provides the PGDs for this.

All PGDs are available on the Primary Care Portal and as they contain electronic signatures each health care professional can have a copy of each PGD they are deemed competent to work under. However if the nurse has access to the PGDs on-line then there is no need to print off each PGD.

The practice manager should keep a signed record of each PGD a nurse has been authorised to work under and the name of the person who deemed them competent. There is a PGD authorisation form on the Primary Care Portal ([here](#)) which is intended to aid the documentation of the PGDs practice nurses are authorised to use.

Please remember – if you are administering or supplying a medicine (which includes vaccines) you must have either Patient Specific Direction e.g. a prescription or a completed PGD, or the supply will be illegal.

For further information on PGDs please see NICE's Medicines Practice Guidelines on PGDs <http://www.nice.org.uk/media/2AF/07/MPG2Guidance.pdf>