

PGDs for national immunisation schedule: update

All NHSE PGDs enquiries should be directed to the NHS England Screening and Immunisation team at england.bnsssq.imms@nhs.net

National Patient Group Direction (PGD) templates to support the routine immunisation schedule are now being produced by Public Health England (PHE). In accordance with PGD legislation and NICE Guidance these national PGD templates, although signed off clinically by PHE, require further authorisation by NHS England as commissioner of this service. The PGDs are not legal or valid without this local, formal authorisation. They will be signed off on behalf of NHS England South, South West by Dr Caroline Gamlin (Medical Director) and Sue Mulvenna (Head of Pharmacy). See NHS England South website to access these PGDs;

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/south/our-work/pgd/south-west/>

There is a rolling work programme to produce these national PGD templates, and the first cycle will be completed in March 2016. Where a required PGD has not yet been produced by PHE, practitioners can use their previous organisational PGDs as long as they are still in date, and still reflect the information in the Green Book. Practitioners working in Bristol, North Somerset, Somerset and South Gloucestershire GP practices can still use the BNSSSG PGDs on the BNSSG formulary website;

<http://www.bnssqformulary.nhs.uk/>

Practitioners from other areas i.e. Devon and Cornwall must access their local PGDs as they did last year, where there is not yet a particular PGD on the NHS England South website. For Cornwall please contact Amanda Pell at amanda.pell@nhs.net, and for Devon, Beverley Baker at b.baker@nhs.net.

PGDs on the NHS England South website in the South West section can be used by all practitioners meeting the PGD criteria in any organisation in the South West, as long as they are administering vaccines in line with the national immunisation programme. Wherever the PGDs are used, they must be downloaded and signed by both the practitioners and the organisation's clinical lead, in order to meet the governance requirements.

Notice of new PGDs will be sent in the weekly GP e-bulletin to practices as they become available, from the SCRIMMs team. Practices can then download and print for local use. There still needs to be managerial sign off within practices and all staff acting under the PGD will need to sign and have clinical manager agreement that they are competent to act on it. NHS England will not hold copies of the practice signed off PGDs, but these should be available for inspection on request.

Provider organisations, health professionals and immunisation practitioners should check they are working to the current PGD versions and only work to legally authorised PGDs. PGDs should be used with reference to the Green Book, and Summary of Product Characteristics for the vaccine.

PGDs to support administration of other vaccines available through NHS services e.g. some travel vaccines will still need to be written and signed locally as before, although the aim is to update PGDs going forward to cover the whole of the S SW area where the service is commissioned by NHS England.

Sue Mulvenna Head of Pharmacy NHS England South, South West 27.11.15