

**Chief Dental Officer –  
England: Advice on  
commercial practice  
of online registered  
dental practitioners  
selling patient group  
directions for NHS  
England  
commissioned  
services.**



**Chief Dental Officer – England: Advice on commercial practice of online registered dental practitioners selling patient group directions for NHS England commissioned services.**

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## 1 Purpose

This document is produced by the Chief Dental Officer-England in conjunction with the NHS Patient Group Directions Website Board, Department of Health and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency to provide clarification to the dental care profession on the legalities of NHS England commissioned services buying (Patient Group Directions) PGDs from online registered dental practitioners.

## 2 Advice

With regard to the commercial practice of Registered Dental Practitioners selling PGDs to registered dental therapists/hygienists

Under the current legislation where a registered dental therapist/hygienist assists a dentist in the provision of NHS primary dental services under a PGD, the PGD provider should confirm and demonstrate that the PGD(s) in question has been signed on behalf of a recognised authorising body. If the PGD provider is unable to do so, it is likely that the PGD will not satisfy the legal requirements for a PGD (as set out in the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 (as amended)\*). We advise against any registered dental hygienist/therapist operating in England from entering into any commercial arrangement for the purchase of PGDs without sufficient proof of authorisation from a recognised authorising body.

Any queries with PGDs should be forwarded to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency customer services, [info@mhra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:info@mhra.gsi.gov.uk), 0203 080 6000.

\*The legal requirements for PGDs are available at The Human Medicines Regulations 2012 in Part 12 and Schedule 16:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/1916/contents/made>

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## 3 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### 3.1 Organisational authorisation

Legislation requires that PGDs, for supply/administration of medicines to assist a doctor or dentist in the provision of NHS primary medical or dental services, must be authorised for use in the relevant service organisation by a recognised authorising body. In the case of NHS primary dental services, this authorisation will be on behalf of NHS England or, in the case of Wales, the Local Health Board, as commissioners of these services. Typically, authorisation of PGDs is undertaken by the relevant clinical governance or patient safety lead.

### 3.2 Development

PGDs should be developed by a locally determined multidisciplinary group and must be signed by a doctor or dentist and a pharmacist.

It is good practice for the group to have representation from any professional group expected to supply medicines under the PGD(s) and to involve local drug and therapeutics committees, area prescribing committees and similar advisory bodies.

### 3.3 Using PGDs

Health professionals working under a PGD should be individually authorised to do so by a senior, responsible person from within the service and those health professionals must have signed the appropriate documentation.

### 3.4 Governance

For each PGD, the commissioning and provider organisation(s) should collaborate to firmly establish local governance arrangements with clear lines of responsibility and accountability.

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## 4 For further information about PGDs

[NHS PGD website \(England\)](http://www.nhs.uk/communities/nhs/pgds/)

(<http://www.medicinesresources.nhs.uk/en/Communities/NHS/PGDs/>)

[Questions about PGDs in dental practice](http://www.medicinesresources.nhs.uk/en/Communities/NHS/PGDs/FAQs/Questions-about-PGDs-in-dental-practice/)

(<http://www.medicinesresources.nhs.uk/en/Communities/NHS/PGDs/FAQs/Questions-about-PGDs-in-dental-practice/>)

[NICE guideline \(MPG2\) patient group directions 2013](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/MPG2)

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