

NHS England Midlands & East
Central Midlands (Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, & Northamptonshire)
Screening and Immunisation Team
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THE IMMUNISATION PGDs THAT WE ISSUE TO PRACTICES ARE CHANGING

Since April 2013 we have produced local PGDs for the (section 7a) immunisation programmes that we commission. The national PHE immunisation team have now published a full set of PGD templates for the administration of these vaccinations – which did not exist when we took over the responsibility for commissioning them. We have decided that now is an appropriate time to start the switch over to using these. We intend to do this gradually - as local PGDs expire or require updating. Their format is broadly the same as the PGDs that we have been producing and, of course, they are written by national experts, and subject to a very rigorous review and sign-off process (in which we are involved).

These national templates **must be adopted locally**, by NHS England, so that practice staff are authorised to use them. This means that the medical director or director of nursing for NHS England Midlands and East (Central Midlands) must have signed the documents prior to publication. **Only these versions must be used** – the national templates available online at gov.uk/immunisation are **not valid** without this local sign-off.

Occasionally, for the sake of clarity, we may need to make some minor changes (e.g. alignment of eligibility criteria with specifically local contracts). If this is necessary we will then subject them to additional local medical/pharmacist review and sign-off and explain in the document why we have done this, prior to them being formally adopted by NHS England.

PGDs will continue to be distributed via email and published on our web pages:
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/mids-east/our-work/ll-immunisation/>

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING

There are a couple of obvious differences between the current format and the national templates that we will be adopting:

- The sign-off sheet is contained within the body of the document rather than on the last page, and it is multi-signature rather than individual. Whether you choose to produce one sign-off sheet per staff member or one for all practice staff is entirely up to you, but it is our understanding that all signatories should have a copy of the sign-off sheet that they and the person authorising on behalf of the practice have signed – for their own records, as proof that they can legally use the document.
- The national templates are written with a view to them being adopted across the full range of UK immunisation services, and so they may legally enable staff to vaccinate a larger number of individuals than the section 7a programmes and local contracting arrangements currently permit. The role of the PGD is only to permit those staff named within it to administer a prescription- only medicine without the need for a prescription or PSD. It does not have to be aligned to – nor does it replace – contracts and Green Book advice. Practices are reminded that they must adhere to the latter, and only vaccinate those individuals that they are commissioned to do so, and must seek another form of authorisation (prescription or PSD) if the patient is eligible according to the Green Book but is not included (or is excluded) from the criteria in the PGD. This includes the interim in situations where the contract or policy has been changed but the PGD has yet to be altered to reflect this.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or concerns about this and wish to discuss these - preferably using our generic email address in the first instance: england.limms@nhs.net