



**Covid Spring Campaign 2026:  
Vaccine Group Direction (VGD)  
replaces National Protocol**

# What do I need to know?

- Due to legislative changes, the COVID-19 National Protocol has been replaced by the COVID-19 Vaccine Group Direction (VGD). Other VGDs will follow later
- The VGD is similar to the National Protocol but there are some important differences
- Providers who wish to use the VGD will need to wait for regional authorisation to be completed (like PGDs). **IT IS NOT LEGAL UNTIL IT IS REGIONALLY AUTHORISED. DO NOT DOWNLOAD UKHSA TEMPLATE AND USE!**
- Authorised VGD will be distributed to practice managers in the usual way using the PGD distribution list or downloaded from the usual web pages

# Comparison: National Protocol, VGD, and PGD

National Protocol	Vaccine Group Direction (VGD)	Patient Group Direction (PGD)
Can only be used to give flu and COVID-19 vaccines	Administer <b>any vaccine</b> (for the prevention of disease)	Administer most <u>licensed</u> medicines
Allows process of giving a vaccine to be broken down into clinical assessment and consent, preparation, administration and record keeping and carried out by different people. Clinical assessment and consent must be by a registered healthcare professional, who can opt to conduct all stages by themselves.		Only one registered healthcare professional (enabled in law) can operate all stages. <b>No delegation of tasks.</b>
Clinical assessment and consent can be done by a <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prescriber</li> <li>- Registered healthcare professional who can work under PGD</li> <li>- Coronavirus occupational health vaccinator</li> </ul>	Clinical assessment and consent can <b>only</b> be undertaken by a registered healthcare professional <b>able to work under a PGD</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Doctors and dentists</li> <li> ODPs or nursing associates</li> </ul>	As above – has to be the <b>same</b> healthcare professional for the whole consultation.
The individual vaccinator and authorising supervisor/ manager has to sign the declaration at the back		
Requires <b>Ministerial</b> approval	Requires <b>organisation's</b> approval to be legal, eg by a Trust, local authority, NHS England (or the regional offices) or an ICB	
Clinical supervisor – doctor, registered nurse or pharmacist	Clinical supervision by someone who can work under a PGD	No supervision expected for competent individuals working under the PGD

# Further Questions?

- **For North East North Cumbria Area use the following:**
- NHS England Screening and Immunisation Team: email [england.cane.screeningimms@nhs.net](mailto:england.cane.screeningimms@nhs.net)
- NECS Medicine Optimisation Pharmacists: Kurt Ramsden: [kurtramsden@nhs.net](mailto:kurtramsden@nhs.net) or Sue White: [sue.white14@nhs.net](mailto:sue.white14@nhs.net)
- Please note - All North East and North Cumbria PGDs and VGDs can be found at:
- <https://medicines.necsu.nhs.uk/resources/patient-group-directions/>
  
- **For Yorkshire and Humber Area use the following:**
- West Yorkshire - [england.wysit@nhs.net](mailto:england.wysit@nhs.net)
- South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw - [england.sybsit@nhs.net](mailto:england.sybsit@nhs.net)
- North Yorkshire and Humber [ENGLAND.NYAHSIT@nhs.net](mailto:ENGLAND.NYAHSIT@nhs.net)
- Please note - All Yorkshire and Humber PGDs and VGDs can be found at:
- <https://www.england.nhs.uk/north-east-yorkshire/our-work/information-for-professionals/pgds/>