

Patient Specific Directions

A Patient Specific Direction (PSD) is an instruction to administer a medicine to a list of individually named patients where each patient on the list has been individually assessed by that prescriber. The prescriber must have adequate knowledge of the patient's health, and be satisfied that the medicine to be administered serves the individual needs of each patient on that list.

What should the PSD include?

A PSD, signed by a qualified, registered prescriber, at a minimum should specify:

- Name of patient and/or other individual patient identifiers
- Name, form and strength of medicine (generic or brand name where appropriate)
- Route of administration
- Dose
- Frequency
- Start and finish dates.
- Signature of prescriber.

A PSD is individually tailored to the needs of a single patient so more information may be required to enable safe supply and/or administration of some medicines and to manage identified risks.

What are the responsibilities and accountabilities of the prescriber who writes the PSD?

The prescriber has a duty of care and is professionally and legally accountable for the care he/she provides, including tasks delegated to others.

The prescriber must be satisfied that the person to whom practice is delegated has the qualifications, experience, knowledge and skills to provide the care or treatment involved.

How can PSDs be used in Childhood Immunisation Clinics?

If there is no up to date PGD in place which is in line with the Green Book, there would need to be a PSD in place covering each named patient attending the clinic, in the form of a note in the patient record or a list of those attending the clinic signed by the GP. The note or list must specify which vaccination is due for each child.

Links

<http://www.bma.org.uk/support-at-work/gp-practices/service-provision/prescribing/patient-group-directions>

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20141205150130/http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Howweregulate/Medicines/Availabilityprescribingsellingandsupplyingofmedicines/Frequentlyraisedissues/PatientSpecificDirections/index.htm>