

Patient Group Directions (PGDs): Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Which areas does the PGD cover?

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Each PGD will reference the area(s) it covers. Each NHS England local office needs to authorise its own PGDs, even those developed nationally by Public Health England.

NHS England South (South Central) covers the Bath, Gloucestershire, Swindon & Wiltshire (BGSW) and Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire & Berkshire (Thames Valley) areas.

2. I can't find the PGD I am looking for?

The [PGD Schedules](#) uploaded to the PGD webpages for NHS England South (South Central) list the current and archived versions of PGDs in use within this area.

If you can't find the PGD you're looking for then please get in touch with NHS England South (South Central) using the [contact details](#) available on the website.

3. Are there any PGDs for travel vaccinations?

Some NHS England local offices and/or CCGs have developed PGDs for NHS provided travel vaccinations. NHS England South (South Central) has made available PGDs for Hepatitis A (adult and paediatric) and Typhoid (Injection). There are no current plans by NHS England South (South Central) to produce and authorise PGDs for other NHS travel vaccinations. As such, alternative arrangements (such as PSDs) will need to be made for the administration of Hepatitis B, oral typhoid, and the combination vaccinations; Hepatitis A and B, and Hepatitis A and Typhoid.

Please [click here](#) for more information about the travel vaccinations provided by the NHS.

4. Why does the paediatric Hepatitis A PGD only cover the Vaqta brand up to the age of the child's 16th birthday when it is licensed up to the age of 17 years?

The Vaqta brand of the Hepatitis A vaccination has different licences which cover different age ranges to other Hepatitis A vaccination brands. In order to minimise the number of PGDs produced a compromise was made. The paediatric Hepatitis A PGD covers children aged from 6 months to 15 years (up to their 16th birthday) and the adult Hepatitis A PGD covers adolescents aged from 16 years.

Even though the Vaqta brand of the paediatric Hepatitis A vaccination is licensed for use in 16 and 17 year olds, the paediatric Hepatitis A PGD is NOT valid for use in 16 and 17 year olds and an alternative mechanism of supply (such as a PSD) must be used.

5. Is there a PGD for the Hepatitis B vaccine?

NHS England South (South Central) does not currently have a PGD for the Hepatitis B vaccine. Hepatitis B is not routinely offered as a vaccination, except to babies born to Hepatitis B positive mothers. In these cases, an alternative mechanism of supply should be considered, such as a Patient Specific Direction (PSD).

6. Is there a PGD for the MenC vaccine?

The NHS England South (South Central) PGD for Meningococcal Group C has been removed from the PGD webpages for NHS England South (South Central), following changes to the Public Health England (PHE) [Routine Immunisations Schedule](#).

PGDs for Haemophilus Influenzae Type B (HIB) and Meningococcal C and also for Meningococcal Group ACWY, which cover the same inclusion criteria, except for children aged between 3 months and 14 years, are still accessible through the NHS England South (South Central) webpages, under the '[Downloads](#)' section.

Please [click here](#) for more information about the MenC vaccine.

7. Is there a PGD for the MenACWY vaccine?

In response to the rapid and accelerating increase in cases of Meningococcal Group W a new vaccine to prevent Meningococcal Groups A, C, W and Y (MenACWY vaccine) is being made available as part of the national immunisation programme for England from 01 August 2015.

A copy of the 2015 Public Health England (PHE) PGD for the MenACWY vaccine, authorised for use within NHS England South (South Central), is available on the NHS England South (South Central) webpages, under the '[Downloads](#)' section. A copy of this PGD was also circulated to GP Practices at the end of July 2015.

Please [click here](#) for more information about the introduction of the MenACWY vaccine.

8. Does the PGD for the seasonal Influenza vaccine include Intanza?

There are two separate Public Health England (PHE) PGDs for:

- ✓ the intradermal seasonal inactivated Influenza vaccine, which DOES include Intanza.

AND

- X the intramuscular seasonal inactivated Influenza vaccine, which DOES NOT include Intanza.

Copies of both of these PGDs are available on PGD webpages for NHS England South (South Central), under the '[Downloads](#)' section.

Please check the contents of each PGD carefully before use to ensure that the PGD covers the correct vaccine brand.

9. Is there a PGD for Adrenaline?

A PGD isn't required to administer Adrenaline in response to an anaphylactic reaction to a vaccine as the Adrenaline is being given in a life-saving situation.

Furthermore, it is a requirement of immunisation PGDs that immunisers have up to date anaphylaxis and resuscitation training. Healthcare professionals who have signed a PGD will have confirmed their compliance with this training requirement, and therefore a PGD isn't required to administer Adrenaline in an emergency situation.

10. Human Papilloma Virus (MSM)

A PGD for the administration of the HPV vaccine (to individuals aged 45 years and under who are men who have sex with men (MSM) and who attend Specialist Sexual Health Services (SSHS) and / or HIV clinics) is available on request for providers commissioned to deliver this service but are not an NHS Trust.

11. Core PGDs

The Core PGD, along with the PGD templates it was used in conjunction with, has now expired and been superseded by PGD templates produced by Public Health England (PHE). But you should still be able to access PGDs for all the immunisations & vaccinations which were covered by the Core PGD. If not then please get in touch (england.southcentral-pgd@nhs.net) to let us know.

12. Where can I find copies of the PGD(s) I am looking for?

All of the PGDs issued by NHS England South (South Central) are available on the website, under the '[Downloads](#)' section for NHS England South (South Central).

PGD Schedules which list the current and archived versions of PGDs issued by NHS England south (South Central) are also available on the NHS England South (South Central) webpages, under the '[Which PGD](#)' section. These schedules can be used as a guide to help search for a particular PGD.

If you can't find the PGD you're looking for then please get in touch with NHS England South (South Central) using the [contact details](#) available on the website.

13. Can I search for PGDs by age group?

Yes. You can use the Routine Immunisation Schedules published by Public Health England (PHE) and NHS Choices to search for vaccinations by age group. Links to both of these resources are available on the NHS England South (South Central) [webpages](#).

14. Should I use a PGD or PSD?

Section 3.2 of the [NICE Guidelines](#) on PGDs outlines the clinical situations in which it is appropriate to use PDGs and when alternatives to PGDs should be sought.

The [BMA FAQs](#) also offer guidance on when PGDs can be used, explaining the differences between PGDs and PSDs.

In situations where patient numbers are small, an alternative mechanism of supply should be considered, such as a Patient Specific Direction (PSD).

Likewise, if a vaccine is being given outside the age-range suggested for a PGD then an alternative mechanism of supply should be considered, such as a PSD.

Additionally, Non-Medical Prescribers may not need to use a PGD, if appropriate to prescribe within their competencies.

15. Can practice pharmacists operate under a practice's PGDs?

A PGD will always specify the healthcare professionals it applies to. Some but not all of the current PGDs allow pharmacists administer vaccines.

If you can't find a PGD for your professional group then please get in touch with NHS England South (South Central) using the [contact details](#) available on the website.

16. Can Health Care Assistants (HCAs) use PGDs?

No. HCAs are not legally allowed to use PGDs. If HCAs are involved in administering vaccines, for example at a vaccination clinic(s), an alternative mechanism of supply must be used, such as a Patient Specific Direction (PSD).

17. Who provides 'local formal authorisation' for the PGDs?

The PGD templates produced by Public Health England (PHE) contain the following text "The PGD is not legal or valid without this local, formal authorisation". This text is used as a disclaimer to ensure that PGDs go through the proper review process and to prevent unsigned (and therefore un-reviewed) PGDs being used.

Local, formal authorisation is provided by NHS England. This is explained by the following line of text within the PHE PGD template: "Public Health England has developed this PGD for local authorisation by NHS England to facilitate delivery of the National Immunisation Programme".

Healthcare Professionals are NOT required to sign the PGD in addition to NHS England South (South Central) under the section "Additional signatories according to locally agreed policy".

The only part of a PGD that Healthcare Professionals need to sign is the declaration(s) at the end of a PGD. Any member(s) of staff intending to operate under a PGD must have signed the declaration at the end of the PGD, along with the authorising manager, prior to the use of that PGD.