

## Molly Courtenay helps resolve everyday issues for nurse prescribers



**Q** Am I able to administer a vaccine using a Patient Specific Direction (PSD) as opposed to a Patient Group Direction (PGD)?

**My local pharmacist told me that this is possible, and that details about the medicine dose, do not need to be included in the PSD but can be provided verbally. Is this correct?**

**A** A PSD, which must be signed by a doctor and agreed by a pharmacist, acts as a

direction to a health professional (such as a midwife, nurse, pharmacist, optometrist, podiatrist/chiropractist, radiographer, orthoptist, physiotherapist or ambulance paramedic) to supply and/or administer a prescription-only-medicine (POM) to a patients (using their own assessment of patient need), without necessarily referring back to a doctor for an individual prescription.

Although there is no legal requirement to do so, general sales list items and pharmacy medicines can be supplied and/or adminis-

tered using a PGD. Many trusts do so as best practice.

A PSD is a written instruction from a doctor or a non-medical prescriber for the supply and/or administration of a medicine to a named patient. For example, this could be instructions in the patient's notes in the primary care setting or, in secondary care, the instructions could be written on the patients' medicines chart.

A PSD might be used in a situation where it is not legally possible to use a PGD for example, administering private vaccines. In answer to

your question, yes, it is possible to administer a vaccine using a PSD as opposed to a PGD. However, a PSD is a written instruction for a named patient. It would therefore need to include details of the dose and route of the medicine to be supplied or administered.

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