

NATIONAL COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME

Patient Group Direction for COVID-19 mRNA vaccine BNT162b2 (Pfizer/BioNTech)

Summary:

1. The Nationally authorised Patient Group Direction (PGD) for the COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine BNT162b2 is now available on the website.
2. A patient group direction is a written instruction for the supply or administration of medicines to groups of patients who may not be individually identified before presentation for treatment. They provide a legal framework that allows the supply and/or administration of a specified medicine(s), to a pre-defined group of patients needing prophylaxis or treatment for a condition described in the PGD, without the need for a prescription or an instruction from a prescriber.
3. The PGD can now be used by local organisations as the legal mechanism for administering the COVID-19 vaccine to patients and staff. The PGD will apply from Monday 14 December 2020 to ensure there is sufficient time for organisations to update their staffing mix and delivery models.
4. PGDs need to include the name of the **authorised, registered health professional** using them and the registered healthcare professional must be trained in the use of the PGD. We recommend that organisations ensure that staff are familiar with the contents of the PGD and that staff have signed the declaration included prior to starting vaccinating on Monday 14 December.
5. PGDs can only be used by those **registered health care professionals** as listed in the legislation. These are: chiropodists and podiatrists, dental hygienists, dental therapists, dieticians, midwives, nurses, occupational therapists, optometrists, orthoptists, orthotists and prosthetists, paramedics, pharmacists, physiotherapists, radiographers and speech and language therapists.
6. To note the task of administering the vaccine cannot be delegated to unregistered staff under a PGD.
7. Registered healthcare professionals using a PGD must have been assessed as fully trained and competent to use them and must comply with the standards set by their professional regulatory body.