

Supply, administration and prescribing of medicines by radiographers

Medicines include contrast agents as well as medicines that might be given before, during or after a diagnostic imaging procedure or during the treatment period for radiotherapy patients. The law currently states that radiographers are allowed to supply and administer Prescription Only Medicines (POMs) using Patient-Specific Directions (PSDs) or Patient Group Directions (PGDs). Both diagnostic and therapeutic radiographers can train to become supplementary prescribers and therapeutic radiographers can train to become independent prescribers.

Patient specific directions

A Patient Specific Direction (PSD) is the traditional written instruction, signed by a doctor, dentist, or non-medical prescriber for medicines to be supplied and/or administered to a named patient after the prescriber has assessed the patient on an individual basis.

[Further information about the use of patient-specific directions in healthcare settings and a list of FAQs on this issue have been published.](#)

Patient group directions

Patient Group Directions (PGDs) are written instructions for **supplying** or **administering** medicines to patients, usually in planned circumstances. They require a significant amount of time and resources to develop and implement.

Radiographers can only supply and/or administer medicines under PGDs if doing so benefits the patient without compromising their safety.

PGDs should be developed by a multidisciplinary group that includes **a doctor, a pharmacist, and a representative of the professional group** expected to supply the medicines under the PGD. It's good practice to involve local drug and therapeutics committees, area prescribing committees, and similar advisory bodies. Radiographers are among [the health care professionals legally entitled to use PGDs.](#)

Current information and resources should be reviewed before developing new or updating old PGDs. In 2018, SPS, NHS England, the Royal College of Radiologists (RCR), and the Society and College of Radiographers (SoR|CoR) created a suite of **PGD templates** with the support of radiography experts working within NHS clinical practice. The templates have twice been updated for use in radiology services in NHS England commissioned services and are **recommended by the SoR** as reflecting best practice for services throughout the UK. The templates can be downloaded and adapted for local use from the 'Radiology' [section of the Specialist Pharmacy Services website](#).

- [Sodium chloride 0.9% in multi injector devices](#)
- [Ioversol \(e.g. Optiray®\) contrast agent](#)
- [Gadoxetate disodium \(Primovist®\) contrast agent](#)
- [Gadoteridol \(ProHance®\) contrast agent](#)
- [Gadobenate dimeglumine \(MultiHance®\) contrast agent](#)
- [Gadoteric acid meglumine contrast agent](#)
- [Gadobutrol \(Gadovist®\) contrast agent](#)
- [Iodixanol \(e.g. Visipaque®\) contrast agent](#)
- [Iohexol \(e.g. Omnipaque®\) contrast agent](#)
- [Iopamidol \(e.g. Niopam®\) contrast agent](#)
- [Iomeprol \(e.g. Iomeron®\) contrast agent](#)

[Statement on the continued use of PGDs for contrast agents](#)

[E-learning for those required to develop and/or use PGDs](#)

<https://www.sor.org/learning-advice/professional-practice/areas-of-practice/medicines-management/medicines-management#Supply-administration-and-prescribing-of-medicines-by-radiographers>

