

Guidelines for dispensing urgent medications to ineligible patients.

Background

Dispensing practices are allowed to dispense to certain patients under the National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services) (Wales) Regulations 2020. These Regulations set out clear guidance around eligibility:

Eligible patients are defined as a patient who:

- Is resident in a controlled locality, at a distance of more than 1.6 kilometres from any pharmacy.
- Is resident in an area that has been determined to be in a reserved location.
- Has made a request in writing to the Local Health Board, AND the Local Health Board is satisfied that the patient would have serious difficulty in obtaining any necessary drugs or appliances for those reasons.

In addition, the following conditions need to be met:

- Outline consent has been granted to the doctor or the provider of primary medical services by whom the doctor is employed or engaged to provide pharmaceutical services to the area in which the patient is resident.
- Premises approval has been granted in relation to the premises from which the doctor will provide pharmaceutical services to that patient.

Appendix 1 lists the reserved localities within BCUHB.

Appendix 3 is a map of the controlled localities within BCUHB.

This guide is intended to support dispensing practices to understand the Health Board view on dispensing to ineligible patients and the circumstances in which it may be appropriate.

This guidance excludes personally administered items, dressing, appliances, and temporary residents. Practices can continue to dispense personally administered items to all patients as permitted within normal practice and to temporary residents.

Guidance

There will be some occasions where dispensing practices need to dispense urgent medications to ineligible patients, but it is expected that these instances will be infrequent and isolated. It is not the Health Boards policy to restrict access to medications; however, in line with regulations, the correct route of supply to ineligible patients would normally be through a community pharmacy.

Dispensing practices should only dispense to ineligible patients ***under exceptional circumstances***.

Below are examples of potential circumstances which may be considered exceptional in this context and where it may be appropriate to dispense medication to ineligible patients (not exhaustive):

- It would be clinically unsafe for the patient to wait until their usual pharmacy is next open to obtain their medication, AND
- The patient, or a representative, is unable to travel to an open pharmacy (this includes travel by other means other than by car) within a clinically appropriate timescale.

In the event that the practice decides that it is appropriate to make an exceptional supply to a patient in their care, the practice should dispense enough medication to cover the full course to support patient compliance.

A list of medications, adapted from the stock lists of medicines held in urgent care settings in BCUHB, is provided in Appendix 2. Medicines that are not included in this list are considered very unlikely to need to be supplied urgently and any supplies of medicines not on this list are likely to be questioned.

Where it has been necessary to dispense to an ineligible patient, the practice must record the reason why the medication was needed urgently, and the patient would otherwise have been unable to obtain the medicines from a pharmacy (including why the patients could not travel if appropriate) in the clinical record. Such information may be requested as part of any investigation into dispensing for ineligible patients. Where clear justification cannot be provided for such dispensing, remuneration for the supply, including reimbursement of the drug cost, will normally be recovered from the practice.

It is expected that these medicines will be dispensed infrequently under exceptional circumstances, therefore, if the practice finds such circumstances are arising frequently, they should highlight this to the Health Board so the services available in the locality can be reviewed.

Practices should also consider raising a DATIX for those medications they have needed to dispense under these exceptional circumstances.

Appendix 1: List of Reserved Locations within BCUHB:

- 1.6 km around the surgery in Dwyran LL61 6YD
- 1.6 km around the surgery in Llanerchymedd LL71 8EU
- 1.6 km around the surgery in Betws y Coed LL24 0BB
- 1.6 km around the pharmacy in Penrhyndeudraeth LL48 6AL
- 1.6 km around the pharmacy in Trawsfynydd LL41 4UB

Appendix 2: List of medications that can be dispensed to ineligible patients under exceptional circumstances only:

Drug Details
ACICLOVIR
ADRENALINE (EPINEPHRINE) (EPIPEN)
AMOXICILLIN
APIXABAN
ASPIRIN
CEFALEXIN
CEFOTAXIME
CHLORAMPHENICOL
CHLORPHENAMINE MALEATE
CIPROFLOXACIN
CLARITHROMYCIN
CO-AMOXICLAV
CO-CODAMOL 30mg / 500mg
CO-TRIMOXAZOLE
CODEINE PHOSPHATE



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Betsi Cadwaladr
University Health Board

CYCLIZINE
DEXAMETHASONE
DIAZEPAM
DICLOFENAC SODIUM
DIHYDROCODEINE TARTRATE
DIORALYTE
DOXYCYCLINE
ENOXAPARIN SODIUM (CLEXANE) Pre-Filled Syringe
FLUCLOXACILLIN
FOSFOMYCIN
GLUCAGON Injection
GLUCOSE
GLYCEROL Suppositories
GLYCERYL TRINITRATE
HYOSCINE HYDROBROMIDE
IPRATROPIUM BROMIDE Nebuliser Liquid
LEVONORGESTREL
LIDOCAINE (INSTILLAGEL) Gel
LOPERAMIDE HYDROCHLORIDE
LORATADINE
LORAZEPAM
METRONIDAZOLE
MORPHINE SULFATE
NITROFURANTOIN



GIG
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WALES

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PARACETAMOL Suppositories

PHENOXYMETHYLPENICILLIN

PIVMECILLINAM HYDROCHLORIDE

PREDNISOLONE

PROCHLORPERAZINE

SALBUTAMOL

TRIMETHOPRIM

ULIPRISTAL

VANCOMYCIN

VOLUMATIC Spacer Device