

Medicines Optimisation
Prescribing Memo

**The Use of Expired Patient Group Directions (PGDs) and
Patient Specific Directions (PSDs)**

Date: 2.5.14

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Main points

**The following Patient Group Directions have now expired and should not be used
to administer medicines:**

- Adrenaline/ Epinephrine 1:1000 for treatment of Anaphylaxis – though an updated PGD is due w/c 5/5/14
- Administration of lidocaine 1% injection to women having the Etonorgestrel (Nexplanon) contraceptive implant
- Etonorgestrel contraceptive implant (Nexplanon)
- Initiation and continuation of Medroxyprogesterone injection (Depo-Provera)
- Salbutamol metered dose inhaler (100mcg/dose) for reversibility testing for suspected asthma or COPD
- Salbutamol nebuliser solution for reversibility testing for suspected asthma or COPD

Administration of these medicines by appropriately qualified staff may still continue, using Patient Specific Directions.

A Patient Specific Direction is a written instruction from a doctor or dentist or other independent prescriber for a medicine to be supplied or administered to a named patient. For example:

- a prescription
- a simple written or electronic instruction in the patient's notes
- A list of patients to be seen in a clinic that identifies the treatment they are to receive

The attached paper, written by the BMA, discusses the legal framework underpinning PGDs and PSDs, and provides reassurance that there are alternative options that allow continuity of care without compromising good clinical governance.