

Patient Group Directions: Management of shortages

Background

A Patient Group Direction (PGD) allows for the supply and/or administration of some medicines without the need for a prescription. Not all medicines can be supplied using a PGD; nor can all healthcare professional groups use a PGD.

Medicines which are supplied or administered by PGD must be named within the PGD itself and all PGDs should be for a specific medication. Anything written at a patient level, would constitute a Patient Specific Direction, another type of prescribing.

Some PGDs will cover a range of medicines e.g. a PGD for combined oral contraceptives may list all appropriate brands for that situation that could be supplied to the patient. Most PGDs are written for one medicine only (though it may contain different strengths).

A PGD for one medication cannot be directly replaced with another medication in the same document; this will need a new PGD and follow current process and authorisation.

Situation

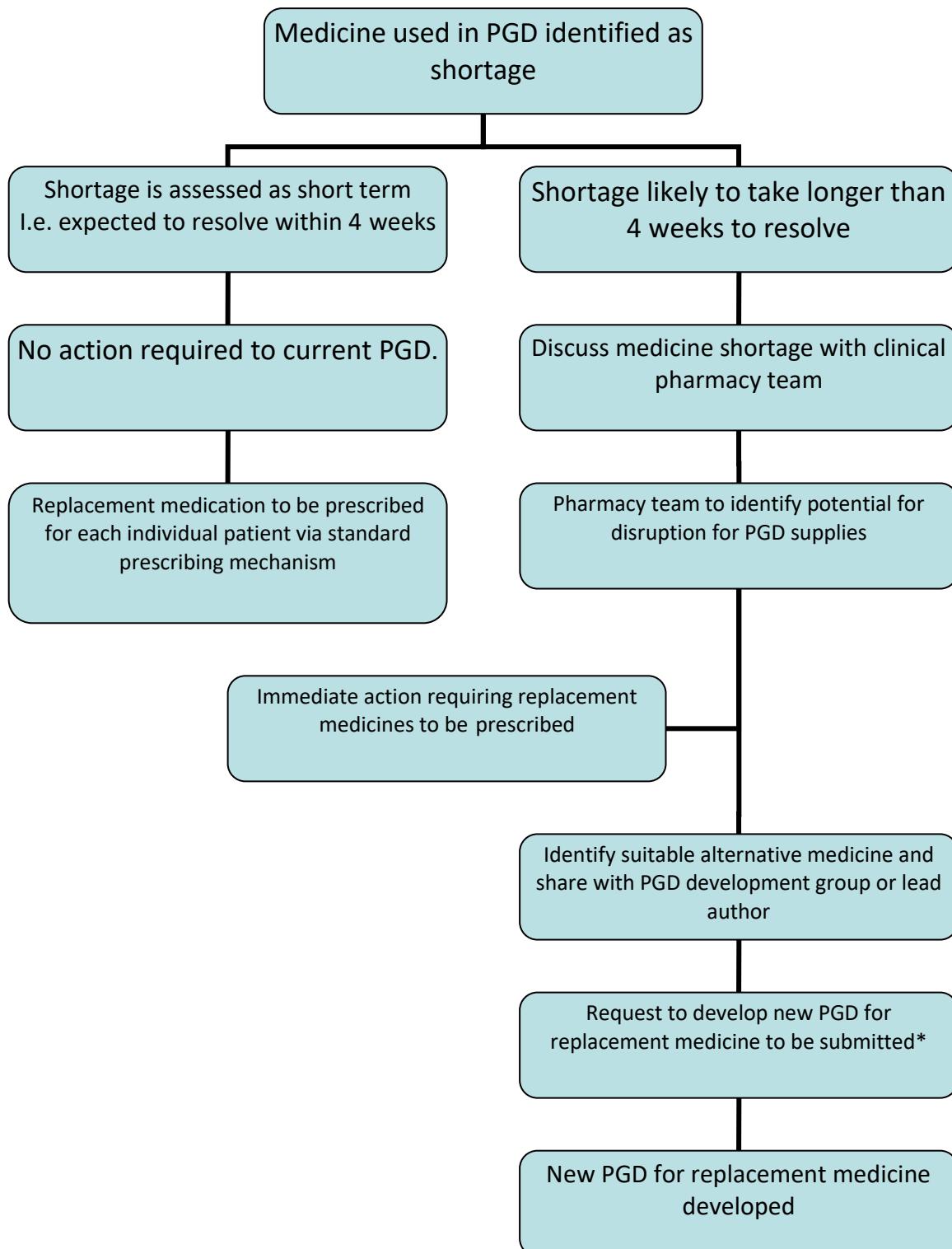
In event of a medication shortage, a PGD may become temporarily invalid and clinical teams may need to identify an alternative medicine(s) and appropriate supply mechanisms during the shortage.

For short term supply problems, this is unlikely to require a replacement PGD but will require any therapeutic alternatives to be prescribed. For mid to longer term shortages, development of replacement PGD may be a possible solution to maintain safe and efficient service provision.

Developing a new PGD can take several weeks before being approved by the ADTC PGD Committee. Whilst the Committee will endeavour to review and approve as quickly as possible, there will inevitably be a delay. Prescribing is the only option during this period.

A process is provided in the flow chart below.

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*Contact ggc.patientg.generic@nhs.scot for more information or to request a new PGD.