

From Michael Donaldson
Head of Dental Services SPPG



Strategic Planning and Performance Group
Dental Department, County Hall
182 Galgorm Road
Ballymena
BT42 1QE

Date: September 2024

Dear Colleagues

Re: Use of Health Service Prescriptions for Private patients

In line with the Controlled Drugs (Supervision of Management and Use) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009, the SPPG regularly monitors the prescribing of Controlled Drugs (CDs) by General Dental Practitioners (GDPs). During recent monitoring, it has been noted that some practitioners are using health service prescriptions (HS21D) for private patients or as part of a private course of treatment.

A HS21D prescription should be used to prescribe medicine:

- listed in the Dental Practitioner's Formulary in the BNF
- exclusively for the use of health service patients for whom the dentist- prescriber agrees to provide general dental services at the date of issue of the prescription

A private prescription can be issued for private patients on practice headed notepaper following the same recommendations as for health service prescriptions. GDC guidance states that a dentist can prescribe any medicine from the British National Formulary (BNF) on a private prescription; however, you must only prescribe medicines to meet the identified dental needs of your patients.

If a prescriber needs to prescribe schedule 2 or 3 controlled drugs in a private capacity for a named patient, they must use a PCD1 form. Details of the PCD1 application process are available on the BSO website at the following link: <https://bso.hscni.net/directorates/operations/family-practitioner-services/pharmacy/contractor-information/contractor-communications/hscb-services-and-guidance/private-prescribing-of-cds/>

With the increased provision of private dentistry, there will be a corresponding increase in the number of obsolete HS21D prescription pads and single forms. These should be disposed of using the practice Disposal Policy. Comprehensive prescription security guidance is available at the following link: <https://bso.hscni.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Prescription-SecurityGuidanceV11.pdf>

If you have any concerns or queries in relation to this process please contact

David Marshall, SPPG Dental Adviser at David.Marshall@hscni.net

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Donaldson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'M'.

Michael Donaldson

Head of Dental Services SPPG