

# Non-medical prescribing

## Information for patients, relatives and carers

### Introduction

This leaflet has been provided to help answer some of the questions you or those who care for you may have about **non-medical prescribing**. It is not meant to replace the consultation between you and your medical team but aims to help you understand more about what you discussed together.

### What is non-medical prescribing?

Non-medical prescribing is when someone other than a doctor, for example a nurse or pharmacist, writes a prescription for your medical condition.

This non-medical prescriber will have had additional training and special qualifications to do this. They can prescribe medications for you either as:

- an **independent prescriber**, where they will oversee your medical treatment and will be able to prescribe from a wide range of medicines
- or a **supplementary prescriber**, where they work alongside your hospital doctor, using an agreed care plan and can prescribe from a limited list of medicines.

### What are the benefits of non-medical prescribing?

Non-medical prescribing helps to ensure that you receive the best treatment available, given as quickly as possible for your condition or for any changes in your condition.

### Do I have to take part?

No. If you prefer, you can still see a doctor for your medicines. You can question your treatment at any time without it affecting the care you receive.

### What happens next?

If you are happy to have some or all of your medicines prescribed by an **independent prescriber**, the next step is that they will decide on a treatment plan. This may include prescribing medicines that you need for your medical condition. The plan for your treatment and any prescribed medicine prescribed will be noted in your health records.

If you see a **supplementary prescriber**, your doctor will work with them to agree on a specific care plan for you. This will include when and how your treatment will be monitored and details of the medicines that can be prescribed. The care plan will be kept in your file as a record of your care.

Regardless of how your treatment is prescribed, we will notify your GP about your treatment plan.

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The non-medical prescriber, for example a nurse or pharmacist, will see you regularly to review your condition as well as your medicines. A prescription for new medicines can be provided if appropriate and related to your medical condition.

## Further information

If you have any queries or concerns about non-medical prescribing, please do not hesitate to speak to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

Alternatively, further information is available on the Department of Health's website at [www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk).

## How do I make a comment about my visit?

We aim to provide the best possible service and staff will be happy to answer any of the questions you may have. If you have any **suggestions** or **comments** about your visit, please either speak to a member of staff or contact the patient advice and liaison service (**PALS**) on **020 3313 0088** (Charing Cross, Hammersmith and Queen Charlotte's & Chelsea hospitals), or **020 3312 7777** (St Mary's and Western Eye hospitals). You can also email PALS at [pals@imperial.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@imperial.nhs.uk). The PALS team will listen to your concerns, suggestions or queries and is often able to help solve problems on your behalf.

Alternatively, you may wish to express your concerns in **writing** to:

Alternatively, you may wish to complain by contacting our complaints department:  
Complaints department, fourth floor, Salton House, St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street  
London W2 1NY

Email: [ICHC-tr.Complaints@nhs.net](mailto:ICHC-tr.Complaints@nhs.net)

Telephone: **020 3312 1337 / 1349**

## Alternative formats

This leaflet can be provided on request in large print, as a sound recording, in Braille, or in alternative languages. Please contact the communications team on **020 3312 5592**.

## Wi-fi

We have a free wi-fi service for basic filtered browsing and a premium wi-fi service (requiring payment) at each of our five hospitals. Look for WiFiSPARK\_FREE or WiFiSPARK\_PREMIUM

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