

Prescribing of Products for Treating Dental Conditions on GP FP10 Prescriptions Position Statement

In line with NHS England's guidance on conditions for which over the counter items should not be routinely prescribed, North Central London does not support the routine prescribing of medicines or preparations for dental conditions (including toothpastes such as Duraphat®, ulcer healing preparations, antibiotics and analgesics) on GP FP10 prescriptions except in the following circumstances:

- After head and neck cancer treatment on the recommendation of a Head and Neck Consultant or Restorative/Special Care Dental Consultant
- For patients receiving palliative care as part of ongoing symptom control
- Management of Sjögren's syndrome as per advice from a Dental specialist

Primary care dentists must signpost patients to purchase products or issue prescriptions (NHS or private) for medicines to meet the identified dental needs of their patients. If a patient receives treatment as a private patient, they must always be given a private prescription.

Rationale

- Local prescribing data of high strength fluoride toothpastes on GP FP10 prescriptions from 2015 has been increasing and is currently above the national average.¹
- North Central London does not routinely commission or fund medicines for dental conditions on GP FP10 prescription. Furthermore dental treatment is not covered as part of the GP contract.²
- It is not clinically appropriate for medicines for dental conditions to be supplied on GP FP10 prescription when a dentist has assessed the patient and treatment has been initiated or recommended by them. Dentists are best placed to assess, treat and monitor dental conditions.³
- Some dental medicines require ongoing monitoring and clinical assessment by the dentist, which supports the dentist retaining the responsibility for prescribing.⁴ For example, patients who are prescribed high strength fluoride toothpaste should remain under the care of a dental team in order to receive regular monitoring and management of their dental decay risk.

References

1. Duraphat Prescribing North London STP, Open Prescribing, November 2020. (Accessed via <https://openprescribing.net/analyse/#org=stp&orgIds=E54000028&numIds=0905030G0BPABBX,0905030G0BPACBY&denom=nothing&selectedTab=summary> , November 2020)
2. Prescribing in General Practice, General Practitioners Committee, September 2020. (Accessed via <https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/gp-practices/prescribing/prescribing-in-general-practice> November 2020)

3. Guidance on prescribing medicines, General Dental Council, 30th September 2013. (Accessed via https://www.gdc-uk.org/docs/default-source/guidance-documents/guidance-on-prescribing-medicines.pdf?sfvrsn=2e82e39c_2 November 2020)
4. Medicines for dental conditions on FP10 (DROP-List), PrescQIPP Bulletin 95, January 2015. (Accessed via <https://www.prescqipp.info/umbraco/surface/authorisedmediasurface/index?url=%2fmedia%2f1280%2fb95-dental-products-on-fp10-drop-list-21.pdf> November 2020)
5. UKMi Medicines Q&A 193.3 When can dentists supply medicines? November 2019. (Accessed via <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/when-and-how-can-dentists-supply-medicines/> November 2020)

Further information available from:

NHS England. Conditions for which over the counter items should not routinely be prescribed in primary care: Guidance for CCGs. <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/conditions-for-which-over-the-counter-items-should-not-routinely-be-prescribed-in-primary-care-guidance-for-ccgs/> March 2018.

A. Guidance for non-dental clinicians on prescribing of products for treating dental conditions

- Non-dental clinicians should not accept requests from dentists to prescribe medicines for which the dentist can reasonably prescribe themselves, e.g. high strength prescription- only fluoride toothpastes (Duraphat®), ulcer healing preparations, antibiotics and analgesics.⁴
- Non-dental clinicians should not accept requests from patients to issue GP FP10 prescriptions for items prescribed on a private prescription by their dentist during dental treatment as a private patient.⁴
- Generally non-dental clinicians should signpost patients presenting with dental problems to their local dental service.
- Patients should be advised on dental self-care measures (daily tooth brushing with fluoride toothpaste) and signposted to purchase over-the-counter remedies for dental conditions where appropriate.⁴
- For patients currently receiving products for dental conditions on GP FP10 prescription, review and discontinue their prescription if appropriate (see circumstances above whereby prescription is appropriate) and signpost patients to appropriate sources of medicines or to their dentist.
- Patients requiring emergency dental treatment can access emergency dental care from their own dentists or can be referred to NHS 111.

B. Guidance for patients, carers and guardians on obtaining medicines for dental conditions

- If you require emergency dental treatment, access emergency dental care from your own dentists or contact NHS 111.
- Dentists can issue NHS prescriptions for medicines (FP10D) from the Dental Practitioners' Formulary for the treatment provided within an NHS contract.⁵ Click on the link below to view the dental prescribing formulary: <https://bnf.nice.org.uk/dental-practitioners-formulary>
- Dentists can issue private prescriptions for medicines to meet the identified dental needs of their patients. If a patient receives treatment as a private patient, they must always be given a private prescription even if the medicine required is on the Dental Practitioners' Formulary list.⁵
- In some circumstances, dentists are able to sell medicines directly to patients.⁵
- Dentists, like other healthcare professionals, are able to signpost patients to appropriate forms of self-care, e.g. direct the patient to a community pharmacy to purchase over the counter pain relief.⁴

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