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FC/id  
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Dear Ian

**Guidelines - Patient Group Directions, Nursing Treatment, Service Specific Management and Pathway Guidance**

I recently met with Hazel Bagshaw - Pharmaceutical Advisor, Kath Clark - PEC Nurse/ with a background in Health Visiting, Carol Bailey – Learning Disability Service to pull our understanding of the ratification process for all of the above.

The following clarification is for my benefit rather than yours, so bear with me while I go through what you probably already know in some detail.

1. **Patient Group Directions**

These are currently produced on a pan Hampshire basis by the pan Hampshire Group. Once produced they are ratified locally by the Clinical Governance Committee and then sent out to practice nurses. At the moment, these are not available to District Nurses and there is a need to move this forward, particularly in relation to flu vaccination. We are seeking advice as to how we are to progress this.

2. **Guidelines, which come directly from the Guidelines and Medicines Management Group**

These have, we think, been mainly secondary care to date. They are treatment guidelines, which are medication driven, are available on the extranet and applicable in a variety of settings. We believe we need some advice as to whether it is appropriate for all of these guidelines to be distributed in community hospitals, or if we could manage a limited set for specific groups.

3. **Learning Disability Services**

Learning Disability Services currently have two types of guidance, which they developed themselves. The first set are service specific management guidelines, and example would be the use of depot injections in clients with a learning disability and the second is pathway guidance, which tends to be client centred and an example of these would be dementia continence etc. These

guidelines are used by the multi-disciplinary team. To date there is no process outside of the Learning Disability Service for ratifying these guidelines.

#### 4. **Nursing Treatment Guidelines (not Learning Disabilities)**

A number of treatment guidelines exist both in primary care and in community services in district nursing and health visiting, although mainly in the latter. The Strategic Nursing Network have undertaken to review all of the guidelines in existence, ensuring they are produced in an evidence-based format and that the evidence-base is satisfactory to enable it to ratify the guidelines. Examples of these are around Management of Gastro-enteritis in Children and Management of Gastro-Oesophageal Reflux in Infants. These guidelines, although not medication driven often refer to medication issues and are currently ratified through the Strategic Nursing Network. Given that there are liable to be guidelines of this nature in other PCTs, I would be grateful to discuss with you how we might make this process more robust and in keeping with the Medicines and Guidelines Group.

#### 5. **The last topic area is Evidence based Research Topic Reference Guides**

These tend to be driven by patient request, most often through Health Visitors, and an example of that is an Evidence Based Research Topic Guide on Plagiocephaly. These are also not ratified anywhere at present.

The purpose of the letter is to ask whether or not you feel it would be useful for us to have a discussion, across both East Hampshire and Fareham & Gosport PCTs, and possibly Portsmouth City in relation to clarifying a framework around the variety of guidelines, pathways etc. in use.

Feel free to point me in someone else's direction if you think that is appropriate. I look forward to hearing from you in due course. I am enclosing a copy of a Nursing Treatment Guideline, a Mental Health Care Pathway used in Learning Disabilities and the Patient Group Direction for Haemophilus Influenzae B, which is currently in production.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely

**Fiona Cameron**  
**Director of Nursing & Clinical Governance**

Encl Management Of Gastro-Enteritis In Children  
Mental Health Care Pathway

cc Carol Bailey  
Hazel Bagshaw  
Kath Clark  
Babs Gray