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Prescribing Policy

Version: 1

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| **Version** | **Section /**  **Paragraph /**  **Appendix** | **Version / Description of Amendments** | **Date** | **Author /**  **Amended by** |
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# Introduction

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SSACLtd is a nurse led clinic and the policy will therefore be focussed on Independent / Non-medical prescribing for nurses

The Code; Professional standards of practice and behaviour for nurses is available from <https://www.nmc.org.uk/standards/standards-for-nurses/>

# 2. Purpose / Scope

This policy applies to activity by qualified prescribers within SSACLtd and there are a number of key principles that should underpin prescribing which should:

* Improve patient care without compromising patient safety
* Make it easier for patients to get the medicines they need
* Increase patient choice in accessing medicines and treatments
* Make better use of the skills of health professionals

# 2. Responsibilities of the IP

The director/owner of SSACLtd has overall legal responsibility for the quality of care that patients receive and for securing patient safety which will also include to:

* To act only within the boundaries of their knowledge and competence
* Adhering to their professional code of conduct and to this policy

* Ensuring that their patients are made aware of the scope and limits of their individual prescribing and to ensure patients understand their rights in relation to independent/ supplementary prescribing (the right to refuse)
* Ensuring their prescribing competency is maintained by means of continuing professional development (CPD)

# 4. Prescribing Practice for IP/SP

* All IP/SP must only ever prescribe within their own level of experience and competence (DoH 2006)
* All IP/SP remain accountable for their own practice and subject to their individual professional code of conduct, standards and ethics
* Independent prescribing means that the prescriber takes responsibility for the clinical assessment of the patient, establishing a diagnosis and the clinical management required, as well as responsibility for prescribing where necessary and the appropriateness of the prescription

### Unlicensed Medicines / Off label prescribing for IP/SP

Unlicensed medicines refer to a product that does not hold a UK marketing authorisation (product license). The marketing authorisation of a licensed product supports the quality, safety, and efficacy of a medicinal product. The same assumption cannot be made of unlicensed medicinal products

Off label prescribing is where medicines are prescribed outside of their licensed indications

IP/SP can prescribe unlicensed medicines for their patients, on the same basis as doctors (DH 2010). But the responsibility for the use of these medicines’ rests with the prescriber, who remains professionally accountable. Licensed products should always be used in preference

There are circumstances when IP/SP may prescribe medicines off label. The prescriber should agree the treatment choice with the patient and a clear rationale for choice of medicine and inform the patient that the product does not have a marketing authorisation. Prescribers are potentially liable for any adverse event or harm arising from the use of an unlicensed special and are professionally accountable for their judgement in prescribing an unlicensed product and the following practice must be followed:

* There is no other licensed medicine available that would be appropriate
* A clear evidence base supports the use of the medicine off label
* The prescribing decision is discussed with the patient and a record made of this in the patient’s notes
* A clear and accurate rationale is documented to support medicine choice

# 5. Section for all Prescribers

Before issuing a prescription the IP/SP must carry out a holistic assessment of the patient including whether it is appropriate to issue a prescription or refer the patient to another health professional

Prescribing should be informed by evidenced based practice, local and national guidelines, and formularies. Prescribing decisions should be made in reference to local policy

### Prescribing, Administering and Dispensing for all Prescribers

In keeping with the principles of safe practice there should be a clear separation of prescribing and dispensing (DoH 2006). Within SSACLtd, a prescription os electronically sent to a registered pharmacy for dispensing.

### Controlled Drugs for all Prescribers

No controlled drugs will be prescribed, or administered on the premises

### Documentation and Record Keeping for all Prescribers

All Prescribers are required to keep contemporaneous records, which are unambiguous, comprehensive and legible

Details of the assessment, prescription and rationale for prescribing must be entered in the health care records.

Electronic prescriptions can be used and a visible audit trial should be maintained

### Continuing Professional Development for all Prescribers

All practitioners have a responsibility to remain up to date with their knowledge and keep skills up to date (NMC Code 2018)

NICE and RPS has produced a single competency framework for all prescribers. It is available from [https://www.rpharms.com/Portals/0/RPS%20document%20library/Open%20access/Professi onal%20standards/Prescribing%20competency%20framework/prescribing-competencyframework.pdf?ver=2019-02-13-163215-030](https://www.rpharms.com/Portals/0/RPS%20document%20library/Open%20access/Professional%20standards/Prescribing%20competency%20framework/prescribing-competency-framework.pdf?ver=2019-02-13-163215-030)

### Formularies for all Prescribers

Nurse Prescribers Formulary (NPFf) and British National Formulary (BNF) are resources that are essential to the prescriber and are available using the online app or online BNF

The drug tariff can be accessed online via [https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmaciesgp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/drug-tariff](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/drug-tariff)

##### Pace bulletins are available online [Formulary: Lincolnshire Prescribing and Clinical Effectiveness (lincolnshire-pacef.nhs.uk)](https://lincolnshire-pacef.nhs.uk/formulary)

### Gifts and Benefits for all Prescribers

All healthcare professionals, make their choice of medicinal product for their patients on the basis of clinical and cost effectiveness

As part of the promotion of a medicine or medicines, suppliers may provide inexpensive gifts and benefits, for example pens. Personal gifts are prohibited, and it is an offence to solicit or accept a prohibited gift or inducement.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is responsible for enforcing the legislation on advertising and promotion of medicines. Any complaints about promotional practices should be referred to the MHRA or to the industry self-regulatory body, the Prescription Medicine Code of Practice Authority

### Adverse reaction reporting for all Prescribers

If a patient becomes aware of a severe or unexpected reaction to a prescribed medicine, the non-medical prescriber should, if appropriate, use the Adverse Drug Reaction (ADR) Reporting Form or 'yellow card scheme' to report this to the Committee on Safety of Medicines.

Reporting should be carried out for prescribed drugs, medicines obtained by patients over the counter and herbal medicines

Electronic reporting is the method of choice and can be accessed by logging onto: <http://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/>