

Prescribing of Dental Preparations by Non-Dental Practitioners for conditions usually treated by Dentists

October 2025

Prescribing of Dental Preparations within Norfolk and Waveney ICS is recommended as

BLACK : NOT COMMISSIONED. NO NHS PRESCRIBING IN NORFOLK AND WAVENEY ICS, Primary and Community Care by Non – Dental Practitioners for conditions usually treated by Dentists

Background

Norfolk and Waveney ICB do not support the prescribing of medicines or preparations (general toothpaste and mouthwashes) for dental conditions on FP10 prescriptions by non-dental practitioners.

It is not clinically appropriate for medicines for dental conditions to be supplied via the prescription route by non- dental practitioners e.g. GPs, when patients have been assessed by a dentist and treatment initiated by them.

Some dental medicines require ongoing monitoring and clinical assessment by the dentist, which is in keeping with the dentist retaining the responsibility for prescribing. For example, high fluoride toothpastes – it is important to ensure that patients who are prescribed high concentration fluoride toothpaste are under the care of a dental team to receive regular monitoring and management of their dental decay risk.

Dental self-care and purchasing of general or over-the-counter dental products should be promoted, e.g. chlorhexidine for gingivitis. Oral health is an integral part of general health. Poor oral health can have a detrimental effect on general health resulting in a significant impact on quality of life. Dental caries (dental decay) is one of the main contributors to poor oral health.

This position is supported by NHS England as part of conditions for which over the counter items should not routinely be prescribed in primary care.

Recommendations

Obtaining medicines for dental conditions

There are various routes by which a dentist can provide patients with, or direct them to, appropriate medicines:

- Dentists can issue NHS prescriptions for medicines from the Dental Practitioners' Formulary for treatment provided within an NHS contract. See the following link to the dental prescribing formulary: <https://www.evidence.nhs.uk/formulary/bnf/current/dental-practitioners-formulary/list-of-dental-preparations>
- Dentists can issue private prescriptions.
- In some circumstances, dentists can sell medicines directly to patients.
- Dentists, like other healthcare professionals, are able to signpost patients to appropriate forms of self- care, e.g. direct them to a community pharmacy to purchase an over-the-counter analgesic.

Summary

Dentists are usually best placed to assess dental problems and prescribe and monitor medicines for them. Involving non-dental practitioners in prescribing medicines for dental conditions is usually unnecessary and uses valuable appointment/practitioner time which could be better utilised. Getting non-dental practitioners to prescribe medicines for dental conditions means that they are responsible for both the prescribing and any consequent monitoring required, for which they may not be the most appropriate clinical practitioner.

Prescribing information

Providers commissioned to provide services on behalf of Norfolk and Waveney ICB are reminded that they are required to follow the local joint formulary and prescribing guidance, as detailed in the medicines management service specification of their contract.

Monitoring of Prescribing

Data on the use of these treatments will be supplied monthly as part of your data pack. If you have any queries, please email nwicb.medsqueries@nhs.net with 'service restriction policy' in the subject line.

Example dental products that non-dental practitioners should not prescribe:

Generic dental product	Brands
Fluoride products	
Sodium fluoride 0.05% mouthwash sugar free	Colgate FluoriGard 0.05% daily dental rinse
	Colgate FluoriGard 0.05% dental rinse alcohol free
	Colgate TOTAL Pro Gum Health daily mouthwash
	Endekay 0.05% daily fluoride mouthrinse
	Oral-B Anti-Plaque Alcohol-Free 0.05% mouth rinse
Sodium fluoride 0.32%/ Triclosan 0.3% dental paste sugar free	Colgate TOTAL Advanced toothpaste
	Colgate TOTAL Pro Gum Health Tartar Control toothpaste
	Colgate TOTAL Pro Gum Health toothpaste
Sodium fluoride 0.37% oral drops sugar free	Endekay Fluodrops 0.37% drops paediatric
Sodium fluoride 0.619% dental paste sugar free	Colgate Duraphat 2800ppm fluoride toothpaste
Sodium fluoride 1.1% dental paste sugar free	Colgate Duraphat 5000ppm fluoride toothpaste
Sodium fluoride 1.1% mouthwash sugar free	Colgate-Duraphat Daily mouthwash
Sodium fluoride 1.1mg chewable tablets sugar free	Fluor-a-day 1.1mg chewable tablets
Sodium fluoride 1.1mg tablets	Endekay Fluotabs 3-6 Years 1.1mg tablets
Sodium fluoride 10mg/5ml oral solution	SPECIAL ORDER
Sodium fluoride 2% mouthwash sugar free	Endekay Fluorinse 2% mouthwash
Sodium fluoride 2.2mg chewable tablets sugar free	Fluor-a-day 2.2mg chewable tablets
Sodium fluoride 2.2mg tablets	Endekay Fluotabs 6+years 2.2mg tablets
Sodium fluoride 20mg capsules	SPECIAL ORDER
Chlorhexidine or hexitidine products	
Chlorhexidine digluconate 0.2%, Chlorhexidine gluconate 0.2%, Chlorhexidine digluconate 0.1%, Chlorobutanol 0.5%	Example brands: Corsodyl®, Listerine®, Colgate® Peroxyl, Eludril®

References

- NHS England: Items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care. June 2019: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/items-which-should-not-be-routinely-prescribed-in-primary-care-guidance-for-ccgs/>
- PrescQIPP bulletin 95. January 2015 <https://www.prescipp.info/our-resources/bulletins/bulletin-95-dental-products-on-fp10-drop-list/>
- NHS North Kirklees CCG Medicines for dental conditions on FP10 prescription. July 2015 <https://www.northkirkleesccg.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Dental-Products-Commissioning-Statement.pdf>

* Adapted from Mid and South Essex Health and Care Partnership document

Title	Commissioning Statement for Dental Prescribing by Non-Dental practitioners in Norfolk and Waveney ICS
Description of policy	<i>To inform healthcare professionals</i>
Scope	<i>Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care System</i>
Prepared by	Norfolk and Waveney ICB Medicines Optimisation Team
Impact Assessment (Equalities and Environmental)	<p><i>Please indicate impact assessment outcome:</i></p> <p><i>Positive impact</i></p> <p><i>Adverse impact - low - action plan completed as per guidance</i></p> <p><i>Adverse impact - medium - action plan completed as per guidance</i></p> <p><i>Adverse impact - high - action plan completed as per guidance</i></p> <p><i>No impact</i></p> <p>No policy will be approved without a completed equality impact assessment</p>
Other relevant approved documents	<p>Items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care: Guidance for CCGs, June 2019</p> <p>https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/items-which-should-not-routinely-be-prescribed-in-primary-care-v2.1.pdf</p>
Evidence base / Legislation	<p>Level of Evidence:</p> <p><i>A. based on national research-based evidence and is considered best evidence</i></p> <p>B. mix of national and local consensus</p> <p><i>C. based on local good practice and consensus in the absence of national research based information.</i></p>
Dissemination	Is there any reason why any part of this document should not be available on the public web site? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes / No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Approved by	<i>Norfolk & Waveney Therapeutics Advisory Group (TAG) (Date)</i>
Authorised by	<i>Norfolk & Waveney Drug Integrated Care Board on behalf of the ICS (Date)</i>
Review date and by whom	Medicines Optimisation Team
Date of issue	Oct 2025

Version Number	Author	Purpose / Change	Date
0.1	MO Team	To support prescribing in primary care	Oct 2023
2.0	MO Team	As above – title updated to clarify that this only covers conditions usually treated by a Dentist. Chlorhexidine can be prescribed by GP for complex medical conditions	Oct 2025