



Publications reference number: PRN01580

Doxycycline Supply Plague Patient Group Direction (PGD)

For the supply of doxycycline 100mg capsules, to adults and children aged 12 years and over exposed to a known or suspected deliberate release of plague (*Yersinia pestis*) by registered healthcare practitioners identified in [Section 3](#), subject to any limitations to authorisation detailed in [Section 2](#).

Reference: Doxycycline 100mg capsules PGD supply plague
Version no: 6.00
Valid from: 1 October 2024
Review date: 1 March 2027
Expiry date: 30 September 2027

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has developed this PGD for local authorisation in line with national recommendations.

Those using this PGD must ensure it is organisationally authorised and signed in Section 2 by an appropriate authorising person, relating to the class of person by whom the product is to be supplied, in accordance with the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 (HMR2012)¹.

The PGD is not legal or valid without signed authorisation in accordance with [HMR2012 Schedule 16 Part 2](#).

Authorising organisations must not alter, amend or add to the clinical content of this document (sections 4, 5 and 6); such action will invalidate the clinical sign-off with which it is provided.

As operation of this PGD is the responsibility of commissioners and service providers, the authorising organisation can decide which staff groups, in keeping with relevant legislation, can work to the PGD. Sections 2, 3 and 7 must be completed and amended within the designated editable fields provided, but only for the purposes for which these sections are provided, that is the responsibilities and governance arrangements of the NHS organisation using the PGD. The fields in Section 2 and 7 cannot be used to alter, amend or add to the clinical content. Such action will invalidate the UKHSA clinical content authorisation which is provided in accordance with the regulations.

The final authorised copy of this PGD should be kept by the authorising organisation completing Section 2 for 25 years after the PGD expires. Provider organisations adopting authorised versions of this PGD should also retain copies for 25 years after the PGD expires.

Individual practitioners must be authorised by name, under the current version of this PGD before working according to it.

Practitioners and organisations must check they are using the current version of the PGD. Amendments may become necessary prior to the published expiry date. Current versions of UKHSA PGD templates for authorisation can be found from: [NHS England » Hazardous Materials \(HAZMAT\) and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear \(CBRN\)](#)

Any concerns regarding the content of this PGD should be addressed to: SMA@uksha.gov.uk

¹ This includes any relevant amendments to legislation


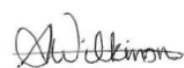

Change history

Version number	Change details	Date
PGD2014/1	Original template developed and ratified	2 July 2014
PGD 2.00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Put into the new PHE template format 2. For use in plague only, plague and plague put in separate PGDs 3. Clinical indications: “another biological agent” removed 4. Clinical indications: co-amoxiclav added as alternative second-line treatment for young children 5. Abbreviated lists of warnings and contra-indications included- these medicines must be offered in all cases where exposure to these biological agents may have occurred unless there are life-threatening contra-indications. 6. Interactions: advice simplified 7. References updated. 	1 May 2016
PGD 3.00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clinical condition: “normally amoxicillin or co-amoxiclav (unless contra-indicated)” removed. 	28 October 2016
PGD 4.00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Put into the new PHE template format 3. Off-label use changed to ‘yes’ 4. Cautions: “Hepatic impairment: Only use where mild stable hepatic disease present; otherwise initiate chemoprophylaxis with ciprofloxacin, amoxicillin or co-amoxiclav” removed. 5. References updated 	16 October 2018
PGD 5.00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Addition of ‘following deliberate release’ to page 1, clinical indication and criteria for inclusion for clarity 2. Addition to indications of note ciprofloxacin is the 1st line choice and doxycycline is 2nd line treatment 3. Retinoid treatment moved from cautions to criteria for exclusion 4. Removal of consideration for ciprofloxacin for myasthenia gravis and systemic lupus erythematosus as this should already have been considered 5. Removal of under 12-years from off-label use 6. Addition that plague prophylaxis is not included under the therapeutic indications in the SPC but is recommended in the Guidance on CBRN incidents. 7. Addition to off-label use the dose for 8-12 year olds is higher than in the SPC but follows the Guidance on CBRN incidents 8. Addition to dose and frequency for children who are unable to swallow the capsules, refer to the supervising doctor for assessment and prescription of amoxicillin or co-amoxiclav if not contra-indicated. 9. Minor rewording, layout and formatting changes for clarity and consistency with other UKHSA PGD templates 	26 October 2021

PGD 6.00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minor rewording, layout and formatting changes for clarity and consistency with other UKHSA PGD templates 2. Qualification and professional registration section updated with other registered professionals 3. Amoxicillin and co-amoxiclav recommendations changed to assessment and consideration of alternative antibiotics throughout 4. Notes under clinical condition or situation to which this PGD applies replaced with link to guidance 5. Criteria for inclusion changed to 12 years and over and 'not showing symptoms compatible with plague infection' added 6. Under 12s, no valid consent, known severe hepatic impairment and taking enzyme inducing antiepileptics added to exclusion criteria 7. Wording under cautions: 'Where there is an established history of severe allergic reaction to ciprofloxacin', removed and replaced with alternative wording 8. Cautions updated to remove renal impairment, and include advice for individuals with liver impairment, chronic alcohol dependence and those taking ciclosporin, lithium, penicillin, other tetracyclines. Wording slightly amended for existing cautions 9. Wording under actions to be taken if the individual is excluded updated 10. Symptoms added to action to be taken if individual declines treatment, link to CBRN guidance and document advice given and decision reached 11. Arrangements for referral for medical advice section added as per PGD template 12. "the dose for 8-12 year olds is higher than in the SPC.." removed from "off-label use" as PGD for over 12s 13. Dose and frequency updated with consideration of other formulations if individuals unable to swallow 14. Drug interactions updated with This list is not exhaustive. Full details of drug interactions are available in the SPC or the BNF online, referral back to cautions or exclusion criteria added for relevant interactions, 2-3 hours added to antacid interaction 15. Hypersensitivity and rash added to adverse reactions and advice on management added 16. Avoiding alcohol, to read the PIL, advice if symptoms develop, added to advice and follow up 17. All records should be signed and dated'or password-controlled on records' added to 'All records should be signed and dated' under records 	26 September 2024
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1. PGD development

This PGD has been developed by the following on behalf of the UKHSA:

Developed by:	Name	Signature	Date
Doctor	Kiran Attridge, Senior Medical Adviser and Consultant in Public Health, UKHSA		26 September 2024
Pharmacist (Lead Author)	Anna Wilkinson, Clinical Response Pharmacist, UKHSA		26 September 2024
Registered Nurse	Gemma Hudspeth, Senior Health Protection Practitioner, UKHSA		26 September 2024

This PGD has been peer reviewed by an expert panel in accordance with the UKHSA PGD Policy. It has been ratified by the UKHSA Medicines Governance Committee

Expert panel

Name	Designation
Ruth Milton (Chair)	Senior Medical Adviser, Consultant in Public Health Emergency Response Department, UKHSA
Claire Gordon	Consultant in Infectious Diseases and Deputy head of the UKHSA Rare and Imported Pathogens Laboratory
Diane Ashiru-Oredope	Lead Pharmacist, HCAI, Fungal, AMR, AMU and Sepsis Division, UKHSA
Jo Jenkins	Lead Pharmacist Patient Group Directions and Medicines Mechanisms, NHS Specialist Pharmacy Service
Michelle Jones	Principal Medicines Optimisation Pharmacist NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB
Jacqueline Lamberty	Medicines Governance Consultant Lead Pharmacist UKHSA
Craig Prentice	Consultant Practitioner Paramedic, Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust
Kelly Stoker	Nurse Consultant for Adult Social Care, Health Equity and Inclusion Health Division, UKHSA
Sherine Thomas	Consultant in Emerging Infections and Zoonoses, UKHSA
Sarah Upton	Lead Pharmacist for Medication Safety, community services, Locala Health and Wellbeing

2. Organisational authorisations

The PGD is not legally valid until it has had the relevant organisational authorisation.

It is the responsibility of the organisation that has legal authority to authorise the PGD, to ensure that all legal and governance requirements are met. The authorising body accepts governance responsibility for the appropriate use of the PGD.

Insert authorising body name] authorises this PGD for use by the services or providers listed below:

Authorised for use by the following organisations and/or services
Limitations to authorisation
For instance any local limitations the authorising organisation feels they need to apply in-line with the way services are commissioned locally. This organisation does not authorise the use of this PGD by

Organisational approval (legal requirement)			
Role	Name	Sign	Date

Additional signatories according to locally agreed policy			
Role	Name	Sign	Date

Local enquiries regarding the use of this PGD may be directed to [.....]

Section 7 provides a practitioner authorisation sheet. Individual practitioners must be authorised by name to work to this PGD. Alternative practitioner authorisation sheets may be used where appropriate in accordance with local policy, but this should be an individual agreement, or a multiple practitioner authorisation sheet as included at the end of this PGD.

3. Characteristics of staff

<p>Qualifications and professional registration</p>	<p>To be completed by the organisation authorising the PGD for example, registered professional with one of the following bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nurses currently registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) • pharmacists currently registered with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) • paramedics currently registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) • additional registered practitioners who can legally operate under a PGD according to the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 <p>The practitioners above must also fulfil the Additional requirements detailed below.</p> <p>Check Section 2 Limitations to authorisation to confirm whether all practitioners listed above have organisational authorisation to work under this PGD</p>
<p>Additional requirements</p>	<p>Additionally, practitioners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must be authorised by name as an approved practitioner under the current terms of this PGD before working to it • must have undertaken appropriate training for working under PGDs for supply or administration of medicines • must have undertaken training appropriate to this PGD • must be competent in the use of PGDs (see NICE Competency framework for health professionals using PGDs) • must be familiar with the product and alert to changes in the Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC) • must be competent to assess the individual and discuss treatment options • must have access to the PGD and associated online resources • should fulfil any additional requirements defined by local policy • insert any additional requirements <p>The practitioner must be authorised by name, under the current version of this PGD before working according to it</p>
<p>Continued training requirements</p>	<p>Authorising organisation to insert any continued training requirements</p>

4. Clinical condition or situation to which this PGD applies.

<p>Clinical condition or situation to which this PGD applies</p>	<p>Initial chemoprophylaxis following exposure to a known or suspected deliberate release of plague.</p> <p>Notes: For additional information on plague, including post-exposure prophylaxis, see CBRN guidance</p>
<p>Criteria for inclusion</p>	<p>Adults and children aged 12 years and over following a known or suspected deliberate release of plague.</p> <p>And</p> <p>Are not showing symptoms compatible with plague infection. Individuals with symptoms should be referred urgently to the supervising doctor. See 'Action to be taken if individual or carer declines treatment' below and the Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) incident guidance for symptoms.</p>
<p>Criteria for exclusion²</p>	<p>Individuals are excluded from this PGD if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They are under 12 years of age 2. They are pregnant or suspected to be pregnant as doxycycline affects teeth and bone growth in the baby, notably in the second and third trimester 3. They are currently breastfeeding 4. They are known to have severe liver impairment 5. They have a known history of severe allergic reaction to doxycycline, other tetracyclines or to any of the listed excipients 6. They are receiving systemic retinoid treatment (for example, acitretin, alitretinoin, isotretinoin, tretinoin) due to possible increased risk of benign intracranial hypertension when tetracyclines are given with retinoids 7. They are taking enzyme inducing anti-epileptic medications (carbamazepine, fosphenytoin, barbiturates, primidone, phenytoin) as effectiveness of doxycycline may be reduced 8. They have not given valid consent (or for whom a best-interests decision in accordance with the Mental Capacity Act 2005 has not been obtained)
<p>Cautions including any relevant action to be taken</p> <p>(continued overleaf)</p>	<p>For individuals where the following cautions apply, and ciprofloxacin is contraindicated or not appropriate, supply doxycycline unless there are life-threatening contraindications as benefit is thought to outweigh risk. Provide affected individuals with the advice given below:</p> <p>1. Myasthenia gravis: Advise to self-monitor for any increase in severity of myasthenia gravis If increase in severity of myasthenia gravis refer to</p>

² Exclusion under this PGD does not necessarily mean the medication is contraindicated, but it would be outside its remit and another form of authorisation will be required

<p>Cautions including any relevant action to be taken (continued)</p>	<p>supervising doctor for assessment and consideration of alternative antibiotics</p> <p>2. Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE): Consider supply of ciprofloxacin (see ciprofloxacin initial supply PGD) if no contra-indications or advise to self-monitor for any increase in severity of SLE. If increase in severity of SLE refer to supervising doctor for assessment and consideration of alternative antibiotics</p> <p>3. Liver impairment: Doxycycline has been associated with rare incidents of hepatic injury. Manufacturers advise caution in those with liver impairment or those receiving potentially hepatotoxic medicines. Those with known severe liver impairment are excluded from this PGD (see exclusion criteria)</p> <p>4. Chronic alcohol dependence: Alcohol may reduce the half-life of doxycycline, particularly for individuals with chronic alcohol dependence. Twice daily dosing may reduce the significance of this interaction. If ciprofloxacin is contraindicated, advise of risk and to seek immediate medical advice if symptoms compatible with plague infection develop</p> <p>5. Severely immunocompromised individuals: Individuals who are severely immunocompromised (as defined in Chapter 28a Green book) should be advised to arrange an appointment with their GP to determine whether they need to continue treatment beyond the course outlined in this PGD</p> <p>6. Taking vitamin K antagonists (for example, warfarin, phenindione and acenocoumarol): Advise individual to arrange for INR to be monitored 3-5 days after starting treatment and to speak to their GP or anticoagulant clinic if they notice any signs of bleeding.</p> <p>7. Taking penicillin: Doxycycline may reduce the effect of penicillin. For individuals taking penicillin for a serious infection, seek advice from the supervising doctor.</p> <p>8. Taking ciclosporin or lithium: Consider supply of ciprofloxacin (see ciprofloxacin initial supply PGD) if appropriate or advise individual to contact the service who prescribe/monitor the affected medicines to arrange monitoring and any dose adjustments. Advise to be aware of any signs of toxicity.</p> <p>9. Already taking doxycycline or other tetracycline for another condition: Doxycycline: advise individual to stop their existing course. They should now take doxycycline at the dose and frequency outlined in this PGD. If doxycycline has previously been prescribed for ongoing treatment, the individual can be advised to continue at the previous dose once the course for plague post-exposure prophylaxis is complete. Other tetracycline: assess suitability for ciprofloxacin, or if contraindicated, consider if appropriate to pause tetracycline treatment whilst receiving doxycycline for post exposure prophylaxis. If unclear, seek advice from the supervising doctor.</p>
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Cautions including any relevant action to be taken (continued)	Refer to the SPC for doxycycline for full details on special warnings and precautions for use.
Action to be taken if the individual is excluded	<p>Explain why they have been excluded.</p> <p>Consider supply of ciprofloxacin (see ciprofloxacin initial supply PGD).</p> <p>Where ciprofloxacin is contraindicated, refer the individual to the supervising doctor for assessment and consideration of alternative antibiotics</p> <p>Document reason for exclusion and any referrals that have been made</p>
Action to be taken if the patient or carer declines treatment	<p>Refer the individual to the supervising doctor.</p> <p>Advise the individual or their carer of the possible consequences of declining prophylaxis and of alternative options.</p> <p>Advise about the protective effects of the prophylaxis, risks of infection, and disease complications.</p> <p>Advise on the need for vigilance for symptoms of plague, recognising symptoms and the need to seek urgent medical attention should symptoms occur. Symptoms of pneumonic plague include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever, chills, sweats, headache, severe malaise, vomiting, diarrhoea, cough, increasing dyspnoea, watery sputum (may be bloody), associated chest pain <p>See CBRN guidance for further information on symptoms of plague, including bubonic and septicaemic plague</p> <p>Document the advice given and the decision reached</p>
Arrangements for referral for medical advice	Follow local procedures for referral to the supervising doctor and/or other services

5. Description of treatment

Name, strength & formulation of drug	Doxycycline 100mg capsules
Legal category	Prescription Only Medicine (POM)
Black triangle▼	No
Off-label use	<p>Plague post-exposure prophylaxis is not included under the therapeutic indications in the SPC but is recommended in the Guidance on CBRN incidents.</p> <p>Where a product is recommended off-label consider, as part of the consent process, informing the individual/carer the product is being offered in accordance with national guidance but this is outside the product licence.</p>
Route/method of administration	Oral
Dose and frequency of administration	<p>One capsule (100mg) to be taken twice a day</p> <p>For individuals who are unable to swallow the capsules, refer to the supervising doctor for assessment and consideration of alternative antibiotics or formulation.</p>
Duration of treatment	7 (seven) days
Quantity to be supplied / administered	<p>20 (twenty) capsules - instruct individual to take one capsule twice daily for 7 days only</p> <p>When supplying under a PGD, this must be a complete manufacturer's original pack or over-labelled pre-packs. The individual's name, the date and additional instructions must be written on the label at the time of supply. As split manufacturers packs cannot be supplied, if an over-supply is required, individuals must be advised to take any remaining medicine to a community pharmacy for destruction.</p>
Storage	Store in original container below 25 °C
Disposal	Any unused product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.
Drug interactions Continued overleaf	<p>This list is not exhaustive. Full details of drug interactions are available in the SPC or the BNF online.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • individuals taking systemic retinoids or enzyme-inducing anti-epileptics are excluded from this PGD (see exclusion criteria) • anticoagulants, vitamin K antagonists, ciclosporin, lithium, penicillin, alcohol: see cautions for advice to be given • oral contraceptives: additional contraceptive precautions are recommended if vomiting or diarrhoea occurs. Advise individuals to follow the instructions given with their contraceptive.

Drug interactions (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • antacids, aluminium, calcium, iron, magnesium, bismuth and zinc salts: greatly decrease the absorption of doxycycline. Administration should be separated by 2 to 3 hours
Identification & management of adverse reactions	<p>A detailed list of adverse reactions is available in the SPC.</p> <p>Commonly reported side effects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nausea, vomiting and headache • hypersensitivity reactions • photosensitivity and rash including maculopapular and erythematous rashes. <p>Advise individuals to take doxycycline after food or with a drink of milk instead of water to help with nausea</p> <p>To help with photosensitivity, advise individuals to wear clothes that cover them up and a hat and sunglasses when going outside. Advise they use a high SPF sunscreen of at least 30 to prevent any sunburn.</p> <p>In the event of a severe adverse reaction (for example, anaphylaxis, severe skin reactions, visual disturbance), the individual should seek urgent medical advice</p> <p>If individuals are concerned about other side effects, they should be advised to continue with treatment and contact their GP or pharmacist</p>
Reporting procedure of adverse reactions	<p>All suspected adverse reactions in children and severe adverse reactions in adults should be reported using the Yellow Card system or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store.</p> <p>Any serious adverse reaction to the medicine should be documented in the individual's record and the individual's GP informed.</p>
Written information to be given to patient or carer	<p>Supply marketing authorisation holder's patient information leaflet (PIL).</p>
Advice /follow up treatment Continued overleaf	<p>Provide the following advice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the dose, frequency and method of administration • to swallow the capsules whole with plenty of fluid during meals in either the sitting or standing position • to not lie down within an hour of taking the medication, so not to take at bedtime • to not take on an empty stomach because of the risk of oesophagitis • to not take indigestion remedies or medicines containing aluminium, calcium, iron magnesium, zinc or bismuth 2 to 3 hours before or after taking the medicine • if gastric irritation occurs, the capsules may be taken with milk • if a dose is missed, advise to refer to PIL supplied with the product • to space the doses evenly throughout the day • to avoid exposure to direct sunlight or ultraviolet lights including sunbeds and sun lamps. If unavoidable, advise to cover up and use high SPF sun cream • To avoid alcohol as it can reduce the effect of doxycycline

<p>Advice /follow up treatment</p> <p>continued</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to keep taking this medicine until the course is finished, unless they are told to stop. <p>Inform the individual/carer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to read the PIL provided with the medicine • of possible side effects and their management • to seek medical advice if side effects or any other unexplained effects on health are experienced • if side effects become serious severe or prolonged, or if the individual notices any side effects not listed in the PIL, to contact their local doctor or pharmacist immediately • to only take the medicine for 7 days and return the excess to a community pharmacy for destruction. • If symptoms compatible with plague develop, to seek medical advice immediately
<p>Records</p>	<p>Record:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whether valid informed consent was given or a decision to supply was made in the individual's best interests in accordance with the Mental Capacity Act 2005 • name of individual, address, date of birth, allergies, and GP with whom the individual is registered (or record where an individual is not registered with a GP) • name of member of staff who supplied the product • name and brand of the product • date and time of supply • dose, form and route of administration of the product • quantity supplied • batch number and expiry date • advice given; including advice given if the individual is excluded or declines treatment • details of any adverse drug reactions and actions taken • that the product was supplied via PGD <p>All records should be signed and dated (or password-controlled on records)</p> <p>All records should be clear, legible and contemporaneous.</p> <p>Contact details for the individual must be recorded. Local arrangements must ensure that contact is made between the designated centre and all individuals to discuss further supplies or an alternative antibiotic, where appropriate.</p> <p>A record of all individuals receiving treatment under this PGD should also be kept for audit purposes in accordance with local policy.</p>

6. Key references

Key references	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Doxycycline SPC last updated 6 December 2021• Doxycycline PIL Last updated 20 June 2024• Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents: clinical management and health protection (2018)• British National Formulary (BNF) accessed June 2024• NICE Medicines Practice Guideline 2 (MPG2): Patient Group Directions last updated 27 March 2017• NICE MPG2 Patient group directions: competency framework for health professionals using patient group directions last updated 27 March 2017• https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/management-and-disposal-of-healthcare-waste-hm-07-01/20 March 2013 last updated 26 January 2024
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7. Individual practitioner authorisation sheet

Name PGD vXX.XX Valid from: XX/XX/20XX Expiry: XX/XX/20XX

Before signing this PGD, check that the document has had the necessary authorisations in section two. Without these, this PGD is not lawfully valid.

Practitioner

By signing this PGD you are indicating that you agree to its contents and that you will work within it.

PGDs do not remove inherent professional obligations or accountability.

It is the responsibility of each professional to practise only within the bounds of their own competence and professional code of conduct.

I confirm that I have read and understood the content of this PGD and that I am willing and competent to work to it within my professional code of conduct.			
Name	Designation	Signature	Date

Authorising manager

I confirm that the practitioners named above have declared themselves suitably trained and competent to work under this PGD. I give authorisation on behalf of insert name of organisation for the above-named health care professionals who have signed the PGD to work under it.			
Name	Designation	Signature	Date

Note to authorising manager

Score through unused rows in the list of practitioners to prevent practitioner additions post managerial authorisation.

This authorisation sheet should be retained to serve as a record of those practitioners authorised to work under this PGD.