

Professional Responsibility

All registered nurses and non medical prescribers being employees of South Staffordshire & Shropshire HealthCare NHS Foundation Trust are authorised to administer/supply lorazepam, as specified under this Patient Group direction, in Crisis Teams, following demonstration of the competencies below:

Professional Responsibility / Competencies

- The registered nurse will have undertaken appropriate training to carry out clinical assessment of patient that requires treatment according to the indications listed in the PGD (see PGD Operational Policy)
- All nurses will have received training in the management and treatment of anaphylactic shock on an annual basis
- Each nurse will keep a record in their professional portfolio of the updates attended during every 12 month period – This information will also form part of the team's annual training plan
- The nurse will have due regard for the NMC Code of Conduct, Scope of Professional Practice and Standards for Medicines Management 2008 (Nursing & Midwifery Council)
- Undertaken appropriate training and possess the competencies for working under PGDs for the supply and administration of medicines
- All registered nurses details and signature must be entered on the PGD
- Following **administration** a record of the date, and dose of the medicine should be recorded in the clients records, and within the Crisis PGD Administration Record Sheet.
- Following **supply** a record of the date, and dose of the medicine should be recorded in the clients records, and within the Record of Medications supplied Using the PGD Framework.

For full product information, always refer to the latest SPC (Summary of Product Characteristics).

If the anaphylaxis is related to a medication, please remember to report to the CSM, via a Yellow Card Report (<http://emc.medicines.org.uk>)

Supply/Administration of	Lorazepam
Legal Classification	POM, CD Schedule 4, Part 1
Black Triangle?	No
Type	Tablets
Storage	Supply/administration of Lorazepam Supplies will be available from central stock location, pre-labelled with the correct dose and quantity by the pharmacy department. Details of service user name and date of issue must be completed on the label prior to supplying to service user. Information leaflets must be given. Any relevant documentation must be completed.
Condition to be treated	Lorazepam is supplied for service users presenting with acute anxiety. The severity of the anxiety must indicate that they are at risk of their own coping resources being exhausted. Lorazepam is used when a short-acting drug is indicated.
Inclusion Criteria	<p>Service perspective: Service user:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meets requirements of Crisis Resolution operational policy ▪ Crisis assessment has been undertaken ▪ Consents to taking the medication ▪ Agrees to post-administration monitoring <p>Lorazepam may be supplied to a service user fitting the following clinical criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not receiving current supply for benzodiazepine medication. ▪ Assessment demonstrates that it has been reported and/or evidenced that there has been significant impairment for at least 48 hours. ▪ Owing to severity of clinical presentation alternative strategies are inappropriate without initial support of medication ▪ In the absence of rapid treatment, the service user is at risk of exhausting coping resources leading to significant deterioration and a possible need for hospital admission.
Exclusion Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service user should be excluded if they present with the following:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Known history of benzodiazepine dependence / abuse • Pre-existing prescription for benzodiazepines or hypnotic medication • Is pregnant (confirmed or suspected) • A history of renal/liver impairment • A history of respiratory disease or myasthenia gravis • Currently breast feeding • Is currently intoxicated with alcohol and/or other illicit substance
Action if excluded or patient declines	Seek medical advice Document refusal
Reasons for seeking further advice from doctor	<p>Advice should be sought for the following side-effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ataxia ▪ Confusion ▪ Amnesia ▪ Increased agitation ▪ Muscle weakness <p>And if the service user meets any of the exclusion criteria</p>
Administration Route	Oral
Dose	1mg-2mg up to twice daily Elderly: 0.5-1mg up to twice daily
Administration/ Supply Schedule	<p>The PGD can only be operated for an individual service user for THREE days in any seven day period and not for more than two consecutive seven-day periods. Following the use of the PGD for a second consecutive period it cannot be used again for that individual for a four-week period.</p> <p><u>Period of Administration:</u> Maximum 72hr period</p> <p><u>Supply:</u> Maximum THREE days supply (only after comprehensive risk assessment)</p>
Warnings/Adverse Reactions	<p><u>Warnings:</u> Causes drowsiness which may continue the next day. If affected do not drive or operate machinery.</p>

	<p>Avoid alcoholic drink.</p> <p><u>Adverse Reactions:</u> Are rare but may include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vertigo ▪ Hypo-tension ▪ Salivation changes ▪ Gastro-intestinal changes ▪ Visual disturbances ▪ Dysarthria (a difficulty speaking that is caused by problems with the muscles used in speech) ▪ Tremor ▪ Incontinence ▪ Urinary retention ▪ Blood disorders and jaundice
<p>Advice/Management of Adverse Reactions & Follow-up Action</p>	<p><u>Follow-up:</u> Service user must agree to be seen by the most appropriate person (team to make that decision) the next working day.</p> <p><u>Arrangements for Referral:</u> CRT to discuss who needs to be informed and fax a copy of the assessment documentation to them. This could be a GP, psychiatrist or other teams from the Mental Health Trust.</p>
<p>Use in pregnancy and lactation</p>	<p>Not appropriate via PGD</p>
<p>Records</p>	<p>Use of medications via a PGD will be clearly documented within the Individual Care Plan and the MDT notes.</p> <p><u>and</u> administration also recorded in the Crisis PGD Administration Record Sheet <u>or</u> supply also recorded in the Record of Medications Supplied Using the PGD Framework sheet.</p>