



South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS  
Foundation Trust  
Nexus House  
Gatwick Road  
Crawley  
RH10 9BG

Email: [foi@secamb.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@secamb.nhs.uk)

Date 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Email:

Dear,

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI/17/10/01.

You requested the following information, please also see our response below:

**I am keen to learn which drugs are used within different ambulance Trusts (there appears to be some variation); and also eager to learn which laws/exemptions are applied to permit their use.**

**1) Which drugs does the Trust permit paramedics to use?**

Please see attached pdf which shows Appendix M of the Trusts Scope of Practise & Clinical Standards Policy

**2) Which drugs does the Trust permit emergency medical technicians to use?**

Please see attached pdf which shows Appendix M of the Trusts Scope of Practise & Clinical Standards Policy

**3) Which drugs does the Trust permit emergency care assistants (emergency care support workers)?**

Please see attached pdf which shows Appendix M of the Trusts Scope of Practise & Clinical Standards Policy

**4) Does the Trust have Patient Group Directions (PGDs) in place to allow staff to administer:**

**a. sublingual/buccal glyceryl trinitrate** – No. Non-parenteral GSL/P/POMs for administration are authorised, by clinical grade of staff, at Trust level (see appendix M)

**b. nebulised salbutamol** – No. Non-parenteral GSL/P/POMs for administration are authorised, by clinical grade of staff, at Trust level (see appendix M)

**c. nebulised ipratropium** – No. Non-parenteral GSL/P/POMs for administration are authorised, by clinical grade of staff, at Trust level (see appendix M)

**d. oral aspirin** – No. Non-parenteral GSL/P/POMs for administration are authorised, by clinical grade of staff, at Trust level (see appendix M)

**e. oral ibuprofen** – Non-parenteral GSL/P/POMs for administration are authorised, by clinical grade of staff, at Trust level (see appendix M). There is a PGD used by Specialist Paramedics for Ibuprofen supplied as a course

**f. oral paracetamol** – Non-parenteral GSL/P/POMs for administration are authorised, by clinical grade of staff, at Trust level (see appendix M). There is a PGD used by Specialist Paramedics for Ibuprofen supplied as a course

**5) If staff administer Prescription Only Medications (eg. glyceryl trinitrate, salbutamol, ipratropium) without a PGD, what legal framework supports that use (ie. how can the Trust be confident that it is legal to do so)?**

Non-parenteral POMs (and P/GSLs) are authorised for use by the Medical Director at Trust level. SECamb is increasing the level at which this authority is given to that of the Trust Board. There is no specific legal mechanism which covers the use of non-parenteral medicines for use by staff who aren't registered healthcare professionals, and the combination of Trust authority and governance, and use of established national clinical practice guidance (JRCALC – Joint Royal Colleges Ambulance Liaison Committee) provides legal justification for the use of these medicines (administration only) to ensure that patient received essential care in a timely way.

I hope you find this information of some assistance.

If for any reason you are dissatisfied with our response, kindly in the first instance contact Caroline Smart, Information Governance Manager via the following email address:

[FOI@secamb.nhs.uk](mailto:FOI@secamb.nhs.uk)

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Coordinator  
South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust