

From: [Redacted]@dhsc.gov.uk  
Sent: 17 May 2024 14:21  
To: [Redacted]  
Cc: [Redacted]  
Subject: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE: Puberty Blocker Medicines

Dear all,

I'm helping to take forward DHSC's legislative proposals to limit prescribing of puberty blockers and am looking to arrange a meeting next week to provide an update.

Given the need to move at pace, I'm afraid I won't be able to offer a choice of dates as we really need to be able to talk to you next week.

I'll send a Teams invite for 2.30pm on Wednesday 22 May and hope that most of you can attend or send a deputy. I'm sorry that we've not been able to offer a choice of dates but will obviously revisit if we are not quorate.

Thanks,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]  
39 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0EU  
[Redacted]@dhsc.gov.uk [Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@dhsc.gov.uk

Sent: 26 May 2024 14:04

To: [Redacted]

Cc: [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

With great apologies for interrupting your weekend – as you know we have been considering how to ensure that Cass Report recommendations on prescribing are implemented consistently to ensure patient safety. [Redacted] Work is proceeding at pace over the weekend to see if this is going to be possible, but if it is then this will impact a range of patients (both those accessing for gender dysphoria and some (EEA patients) accessing for other reasons) as well as a range of health professionals who will need to be informed of the changes.

[Redacted]

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Department of Health and Social Care

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## **New Government restrictions on use of Puberty Suppressing Hormones (Puberty Blockers); Information for prescribers and pharmacists/dispensing doctors**

The Government has introduced emergency restrictions on the use of **gonadotrophin releasing hormone (GnRH) analogues** used to suppress puberty as part of treating gender incongruence or gender dysphoria in children and young people who are under 18 years of age. Some of these restrictions, the ones for private prescriptions, will take effect from 3 June 2024.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-restrictions-on-puberty-blockers>

### Who will the change affect most?

As a result of this new Government policy, people who are currently receiving a private prescription for GnRH analogues for any reason from a professional who is in the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland, but not UK registered, will be impacted from 3 June 2024. **Pharmacies in Great Britain will no longer be able to dispense new private prescriptions, dated on or after 3 June 2024 for GnRH analogues from the EEA or Switzerland for anyone under 18 years old.**

### Who will be less affected but may need advice and reassurance?

Individuals who are already receiving NHS or private prescriptions can continue to receive their prescriptions. However, they and / or their families are strongly advised to meet with their prescribing clinician to fully understand the safety risks associated with GnRH analogues when prescribed for gender incongruence or gender dysphoria. Information for patients can be found on the website for the [NHS National Referral Support Service for the Children and Young People's Gender Service](#).

### What are the specifics of the new Government Policy?

As a result of the new Government policy, it will become a **criminal offence** for a doctor, pharmacist, or any other individual in Great Britain to sell or supply these drugs to patients under the age of 18 **except in the following circumstances:**



- The child or young person is prescribed these medicines on an NHS prescription (for example, from the NHS Children and Young People’s Gender Service). All NHS prescriptions and directions are outside of this ban.
- The child or young person is prescribed these medicines on a private prescription from a UK prescriber that fulfils the following criteria:
  - The prescription was dated prior to 3 June 2024; or
  - It is a repeat prescription but only when the initial prescription was written in the six months prior to 3 June 2024;
  - There are also requirements for prescriptions issued from 3 June 2024 to be marked with the person’s age, annotated by the prescriber with “SLS”, and in the case of prescriptions issued before that date, for the person to provide proof of identity and age.
  - The prescription is for a purpose other than the treatment of gender incongruence or gender dysphoria, or for gender incongruence/dysphoria if the patient started treatment for gender incongruence/dysphoria before 3 June 2024.

**Additionally**, from 26 June 2024 General Practitioners (GPs) in England will only be able to supply prescriptions for GnRH analogues in the following circumstances:

- The patient is aged 18 years or over; or
- The patient is under 18 years old, and the purpose of the prescription is for a medical condition other than gender incongruence or gender dysphoria; or
- The patient is under 18 years old and has started treatment with these medicines, and for these purposes they will be treated as having started treatment if they have been issued with a prescription for these medicines since 3 December 2023, even if they have not yet started taking the medicines.

As indicated above, new private prescriptions for GnRH analogues from a prescriber in the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland who is not UK registered are banned from being supplied in Great Britain in all circumstances for patients aged under 18. For patients aged 18 or over with a prescription from an EEA or Switzerland registered prescriber, their prescription can be dispensed in Great Britain providing verification of age and identity can be shown to the dispensing pharmacist.

The effect of the order is that emergency supply under the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 is prohibited.



Further information about specific cases can be found in Appendix 1.

These changes will be reflected in the Drug Tariff from July 2024, and in dm+d this week. It will take time for these changes to be added to GP prescribing and pharmacy dispensing IT systems. Further advice will be provided on IT system changes ahead of 26 June 2024.

#### Support for children and young people affected by this change

Some children and young people may be concerned or distressed by changes. If they are already under the care of Childrens and Young People's (CYP) mental health provider/Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) they can contact their team for advice. If they are not, their GP team will be able to assess whether further referrals for mental health support are required. Patients can also be signposted to advice on getting mental health support available at [nhs.uk](https://www.nhs.uk). Anyone in need of urgent support can contact NHS 111 and choose the mental health option (option 2) <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/mental-health-services/where-to-get-urgent-help-for-mental-health/>

NHS England published national clinical policy on puberty suppressing hormones on 12 March 2024 alongside an evidence review which can be found [here](#).

The General Pharmaceutical Council has published a resource for pharmacy professionals to support them in providing information, support and services to children and young people with gender incongruence or dysphoria; 'Gender identity services for children and young people: making compassionate, professional and ethical decisions' is available at: [Gender identity services for children and young people: making compassionate, professional and ethical decisions \(pharmacyregulation.org\)](https://www.pharmacyregulation.org)



## Appendix 1

### ADVICE FOR PRESCRIBERS AND DISPENSERS

Puberty Suppressing Hormones			
Patient group	Advice	Prescriber	Dispenser
Under 18 years old and <b>not prescribed</b> GnRH analogues.	No under 18-year-old should be started on GnRH analogues to suppress puberty for gender incongruence or gender dysphoria.	<p>The initiation of GnRH analogues is not possible in the NHS specialist Children and Young People's Gender Service unless this is part of a future NIHR research study or the patient was referred to an NHS paediatric endocrinology team for assessment of suitability of GnRH analogues for gender incongruence or gender dysphoria on or before 31 March 2024.</p> <p>Other NHS clinicians cannot initiate a new NHS prescription from 26 June 2024.</p> <p>Private practitioners cannot initiate a new prescription from 3 June 2024 to patients who have not yet started treatment.</p>	<p>Pharmacies in Great Britain cannot dispense a new (initiation) prescription issued by a prescriber, unless the patient started treatment before the restrictions came into effect.</p> <p>This includes prescriptions issued in the UK, European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland.</p>
Patient is under 18	Patients under 18 are strongly	If during a shared decision-making	NHS primary care prescriptions for continuation



<p>years old and already being prescribed GnRH analogues through the <b>NHS</b> for gender incongruence or gender dysphoria.</p>	<p>advised to meet with their clinician to fully understand the risks of continuing taking GnRH analogues for puberty suppression.</p> <p>These medications can be stopped and do not need to be weaned off.</p>	<p>conversation considering the risks a decision is made to continue the Children and Young People Gender Service or another NHS clinician can continue to prescribe. NHS prescriptions in primary care must be marked SLS if they are issued on or after 26 June 2024.</p>	<p>of existing treatment marked SLS may be dispensed when the new restrictions come into force on 26 June. NHS prescriptions are not covered by the Prohibition Order.</p>
<p>Patient is under 18 years old and is already being prescribed GnRH analogues by a UK-registered <b>private</b> practitioner in Great Britain for gender incongruence or gender dysphoria.</p>	<p>Patients under 18 are strongly advised to meet with their clinician to fully understand the risks of continuing taking GnRH analogues for puberty suppression.</p> <p>These medications can be stopped and do not need to be weaned off.</p>	<p>If during a shared decision-making conversation considering the risks a decision is made to continue the private practitioner can continue to prescribe. New prescriptions must be marked SLS and include the patient's age.</p>	<p>Private prescriptions for continuation of existing treatment marked SLS and including the patient's age may be dispensed . Existing prescriptions, issued before 3 June 2024, can only be supplied if proof of age and identity is produced.</p>
<p>Patient under 18 years old and is already being prescribed GnRH analogues through a prescription from the <b>EEA</b> or <b>Switzerland</b> for gender incongruence</p>	<p>Patients under 18 are strongly advised to meet with their clinician to fully understand the risks of continuing taking GnRH analogues for puberty suppression.</p>	<p>If the patient wants to continue an NHS or private prescriber can continue to prescribe following a shared decision-making conversation about the risks with the patient. Prescription must be marked SLS</p>	<p>Prescriptions from EEA or Switzerland for GnRH analogues for puberty suppression can no longer be dispensed unless they were issued before 3 June 2024 and are still valid, and the dispenser has proof of age and identity.</p>



or gender dysphoria.	These medications can be stopped and do not need to be weaned off.	and patient's age, if issued after 3 June 2024.	
Patient is under 18 years old and is an overseas <b>visitor</b> who has run out of their GnRH analogues for gender incongruence or gender dysphoria.	The patient may see a private practitioner, or temporarily register with a GP for advice and support.	If the patient started treatment before 3 June 2024, the private practitioner or the GP can prescribe a repeat prescription if this is within their clinical scope of practice, and they are satisfied this is urgently needed continuation therapy. Prescription must be marked SLS and have proof of age.	The patient should secure further medications from their home nation specialist if possible. However, a private prescription marked SLS from 3 June 2024, or an NHS prescription marked SLS from 26 June 2024, for continuation of treatment may be dispensed.
Patient is <b>18 years or older</b> and remains on GnRH analogues and have not started on gender affirming hormones.	Patients under 18 are strongly advised to meet with their clinician to fully understand the risks of continuing taking GnRH analogues for puberty suppression.  These medications can be stopped and do not need to be weaned off.	Patients are advised to meet with their clinician so that the risks of continuation are fully understood. If after a shared decision-making conversation, the patient wishes to continue treatment the practitioner can continue NHS or private prescribing. Prescription must be marked SLS.	Prescriptions from NHS from 26 June 2024, or private prescribers from 3 June 2024, marked SLS may be dispensed. In the latter case, if it is not marked SLS, the patient may instead provide proof of age and identity.  Prescriptions from the EEA or Switzerland can be dispensed if the patient is able to provide proof of age and identity. SLS cannot be used by such prescribers.
<b>Gender Affirming Hormones (GnRH analogue prescriptions)</b>			
Patient is under 18 years old and not yet taking	No under 18-year-old should be <b>initiated</b> on gender affirming	NHS prescribers are advised not to initiate gender affirming	NHS GnRH analogue prescriptions may not be dispensed unless marked SLS.





gender affirming hormones.	hormones by the NHS (except by Children and Young People's Gender Service in extreme circumstances).	hormones under the age of 18. Children and Young People's Gender Service will consider initiating this treatment in extreme circumstances. A private practitioner may after a shared decision-making conversation about the risks initiate prescriptions for GnRH analogues as part of gender affirmation. Prescription must be marked SLS.	Private prescriptions marked SLS may be dispensed.  Prescriptions from the EEA or Switzerland for GnRH analogues cannot be dispensed.
Patient is under 18 years old and is already being prescribed GnRH analogues by the <b>NHS</b> as part of gender affirmation.	Patients are advised to continue taking GnRH analogues as part of gender affirmation. They should consult their prescriber if they wish to consider withdrawing.	Patients should have a shared decision-making conversation about risks of treatment with the CYP Gender Service or other NHS prescriber. If the patient decides to continue treatment this can be prescribed. Prescription must be marked SLS.	NHS prescriptions continuing treatment marked SLS may be dispensed.
Patient is under 18 years old and is already being prescribed GnRH analogues by a <b>private</b> practitioner in	Patients are advised to continue taking GnRH analogues as part of gender affirmation. They should consult their prescriber if	Patients should have a shared decision-making conversation about risks of treatment with their private prescriber. If the patient wishes to	Private and NHS prescriptions for continuation of treatment marked SLS may be dispensed.  Prescriptions from the EEA or Switzerland for GnRH analogues cannot be dispensed.



England as part of gender affirmation.	they wish to consider withdrawing.	continue treatment the private practitioner (or an NHS prescriber, where appropriate) can continue to prescribe. Prescription must be marked SLS.	
Patient is under 18 years old and is already being prescribed GnRH analogues through a <b>prescription from the EEA or Switzerland</b> as part of gender affirmation.	This treatment should <u>not</u> be withdrawn abruptly.  Patients are advised to meet with the clinician who initiated treatment for further advice and support. If that is not possible, they should meet with their GP or specialist to consider options.	Private or NHS prescribers may prescribe treatment for these patients following a shared decision-making conversation about the risks of treatment. Prescription must be marked SLS.	Prescriptions from EEA or Switzerland for GnRH analogues cannot be dispensed.  NHS or private prescriptions marked SLS may be dispensed.
Patient is <b>under 18 years old visiting the UK</b> and has run out of their GnRH analogues as part of gender affirmation.	The patient may see a private practitioner, or temporarily register with a GP for advice and support.	The private or NHS prescriber can prescribe a repeat prescription if this is within their clinical scope of practice, and they are satisfied this is urgently needed continuation therapy. Prescription must be marked SLS.	The patient should secure further medications from their home nation specialist if possible. However, a private or NHS prescription for continuation of treatment may be dispensed.  Prescriptions from the EEA or Switzerland for GnRH analogues cannot be dispensed.
Patient is <b>over 18 years old</b>	The patient may see a private practitioner, or	The private or NHS prescriber can prescribe a	Prescriptions from NHS prescribers marked SLS may be dispensed if the patient is



<p><b>visiting the UK</b> and has run out of their GnRH analogues as part of gender affirmation.</p>	<p>temporarily register with a GP for advice and support.</p>	<p>repeat prescription if this is within their clinical scope of practice, and they are satisfied this is urgently needed continuation therapy. Prescription must be marked SLS.</p>	<p>able to provide proof of age and identity. Prescriptions from private prescribers, if not marked SLS, the patient may instead provide proof of age and identity.</p> <p>Prescriptions from the EEA or Switzerland can be dispensed if the patient is able to provide proof of age and identity.</p>
<p><b>Prescriptions for GnRH analogues for conditions not including gender dysphoria or gender incongruence</b></p>			
<p>Patient is under 18 years old and is already being prescribed GnRH analogues for other reasons.</p>	<p>NHS and private patients can continue to receive prescriptions.</p> <p>Patients receiving a prescription from an EEA or Swiss registered prescriber are advised to seek advice from their GP or private practitioner.</p>	<p>NHS and private prescriptions can be issued.</p> <p>Both NHS and private prescriptions for GnRH analogues need to be endorsed SLS by the prescriber to demonstrate that the prescription is in accordance with the new arrangements.</p>	<p>Both NHS and private prescriptions endorsed SLS can be dispensed.</p> <p>Prescriptions from the EEA or Switzerland registered for GnRH analogues cannot be dispensed.</p>
<p>Patient 18 years old and over who are already being prescribed GnRH analogues for other reasons.</p>	<p>Patients will be able to continue to receive their prescriptions.</p>	<p>Both NHS and private prescriptions for GnRH analogues need to be endorsed SLS by the prescriber to demonstrate that the prescription is in accordance with the new arrangements.</p>	<p>Prescriptions from NHS prescribers marked SLS may be dispensed if the patient is able to provide proof of age and identity. Prescriptions from private prescribers, if not marked SLS, the patient may instead provide proof of age and identity.</p> <p>Prescriptions from the EEA or Switzerland can be dispensed if the patient is able to provide proof of age and identity.</p>



Fen House  
Fen Lane  
Lincoln  
LN6 8UZ

31<sup>st</sup> May 2024

Dear Patient, Parent, or Guardian

NHS England is sending this letter to everyone who is on the waiting list for the *NHS Children and Young People's Gender Service*, but this information will be of most interest to children and young people, and their parents or carers, who are taking Gonadotropin-releasing hormone analogues (GnRH analogues) for gender incongruence or gender dysphoria (commonly referred to as *Puberty Blockers* or *Puberty Suppressing Hormones*).

This letter provides urgent information on the implications of new Government policy.

The Government introduced emergency restrictions on 29 May 2024 on the use of a group of medicines called GnRH analogues when they are used to suppress puberty as part of treating gender incongruence or gender dysphoria in children and young people who are under 18 years of age. Some of these restrictions will take effect from 3 June 2024.

The Government's announcement is published here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-restrictions-on-puberty-blockers>

The new arrangements apply to medicines that consist of or contain buserelin, gonadorelin, goserelin, leuprorelin acetate, nafarelin, or triptorelin. This includes, but is not limited to, medicines sold under the brand names: Decapeptyl<sup>®</sup>, Gonapeptyl Depot<sup>®</sup>, Salvacyl<sup>®</sup>, Prostag<sup>®</sup>, Staladex<sup>®</sup>, Zoladex<sup>®</sup>, Synarel.

*The individuals who will be most impacted are those who are currently receiving a prescription for GnRH analogues from a healthcare professional who is registered outside of the UK in the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland, or who were intending to obtain such a prescription. It will also particularly impact on individuals who have not yet started on a course of treatment with GnRH analogues, depending on what the treatment is for.*

### ***If you need help***

We understand that the Government's changes may cause worry and concern to some individuals and families. If it is impacting your mental health you may want to seek support. If you are under the care of an NHS mental health service, you should contact your team. If not, you can contact your GP practice. Further advice on getting mental health support is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/children-and-young-adults/mental-health-support/>

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If you need support because you are waiting to be seen by an *NHS Children and Young People's Gender Service*, support options can be found on the website for the [NHS Referral Management Support Service for the Children and Young People's Service](#).

### **Need urgent support?**

If you need urgent support you can contact [NHS 111](#) and choose the mental health option (option 2) <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/mental-health-services/where-to-get-urgent-help-for-mental-health/>

### ***Changes made by the Government***

As a result of the new Government policy, from 3 June 2024 it will become a criminal offence for a pharmacist, doctor or any other individual in Great Britain to sell or supply these drugs to patients under the age of 18 **except in the following circumstances:**

- The child or young person is using an NHS prescription (for example, from the *NHS Children and Young People's Gender Service* or from an NHS GP).
- The child or young person is using a private prescription from a clinician registered in the United Kingdom that fulfils the following criteria:
  - If the prescription was dated prior to 3 June 2024, whether as a one off prescription or a repeat prescription, it can still be dispensed, whether the treatment is for gender incongruence/dysphoria or some other purpose. In practice, unless it is a repeat prescription, it will need to have been issued within the previous six months to still be valid; or
  - If the prescription is written on or after 3 June 2024, it can only be dispensed if it is written by a UK-registered doctor, nurse or pharmacist, whatever its purpose. It must be either for a purpose other than treatment for gender incongruence or, if it is for gender dysphoria/incongruence, the patient must have started treatment before 3 June 2024. In addition to those patients who have actually started treatment, patients are treated as having started treatment, whether or not they have actually taken a GnRH analogue, if they were prescribed with a GnRH analogue on or after 3 December 2023.

It will also be a criminal offence to possess these medicines, where the individual had reasonable cause to know that the medicine had been sold or supplied in breach of the ban.

Additionally, from 26 June 2024 NHS prescribers in GP practices in primary care will only be able to supply – or continue to supply - prescriptions for GnRH analogues in the following circumstances:

- The patient is aged 18 years or over; or
- The patient is 17 years or under and has started treatment with these medicines (they will be treated as having started treatment if they have been issued with a

prescription for these medicines since 3 December 2023, even if they have not yet actually started to take the medicine); or

- The patient is 17 years or under and is being treated with GnRH analogues for gender incongruence or gender dysphoria by the NHS as part of a future clinical trial overseen by the National Institute for Health and Care Research; or
- The patient is 17 years or under and the purpose of the prescription is for a medical condition *other than* gender incongruence or gender dysphoria.

*From 3<sup>rd</sup> June, private prescriptions of GnRH analogues from a prescriber registered in the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland are banned from being supplied in Great Britain in all circumstances for patients aged under 18.*

### ***The impact of these changes***

The individuals who will be most impacted by the Government policy are those under 18 years of age who are currently receiving a prescription for GnRH analogues for any reason from a healthcare professional who is registered outside of the United Kingdom in the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland, or who intended to obtain such a prescription. Pharmacies in Great Britain will no longer be able to dispense new prescriptions for GnRH analogues from non-UK registered prescribers, including those in the EEA or Switzerland, for anyone aged 17 years or under. It will also particularly impact on those who have not started a course of treatment with GnRH analogues but might have started a private course of treatment with them for gender incongruence or gender dysphoria in the coming months.

Individuals who are already receiving NHS or private prescriptions from clinicians registered in the United Kingdom can continue to receive their prescriptions. However, such individuals and their families are strongly advised to meet with the prescribing clinician to fully understand the safety risks associated with GnRH analogues when prescribed for gender incongruence or gender dysphoria.

*The appendix to this letter explains how the Government's changes may affect various individuals.*

### ***Buying GnRH analogues from un-regulated sources***

No one should buy GnRH analogues (or any other medication) from unregulated sources such as the internet, friends or from street dealers.

From 3 June 2024 the consequences of the Government's changes will be that *possession* of GnRH analogues will become a criminal offence where the individual had reasonable cause to know that the medicine had been sold or supplied in breach of the Government's ban.

Where a child or young person is receiving GnRH analogues from unregulated sources or unregulated providers, GPs may conclude that safeguarding procedures should be explored.

Unregulated medicines can have potentially dangerous short and long term side effects; and even prescription drugs can be dangerous unless prescribed by, and managed by, an experienced and appropriately trained healthcare professional.

Yours sincerely

Professor James Palmer  
National Medical Director for Specialised Services

*Sent by the NHS Arden and Greater East Midlands Commissioning Support Unit National Referral Support Service*

<https://www.ardengemcsu.nhs.uk/services/clinical-support/national-referral-support-service-for-the-nhs-gender-incongruence-service-for-children-and-young-people/>

## HOW DO THE CHANGES AFFECT ME?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I am under 18 years of age; and</li> <li>• I am not yet under the care of the NHS; and</li> <li>• I want to start on GnRH analogues for gender incongruence or gender dysphoria</li> </ul>	<p>This is not possible either through the NHS or privately:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The initiation of GnRH analogues is not possible in the NHS <i>Children and Young People's Gender Service</i> unless this is part of a future clinical study.</li> <li>• GPs cannot initiate a new NHS prescription from 26 June 2024.</li> <li>• Private medical practitioners cannot initiate a new prescription from 3 June 2024 to patients who have not yet started treatment. Supply against such prescriptions will be unlawful.</li> <li>• Pharmacies in Great Britain cannot dispense a new UK private prescription from 3 June or a new NHS prescription from 26 June 2024, unless the patient started treatment before the restrictions came into effect.</li> <li>• Pharmacies in Great Britain cannot dispense any prescription for GnRH analogues from the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland from 3 June 2024, unless the prescriber happens to be UK registered.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I am under 18 years of age; and</li> <li>• I was referred to an NHS paediatric endocrinology team for assessment of suitability of GnRH analogues for gender incongruence or gender dysphoria on or before 31 March 2024</li> </ul>	<p>You may be able to start on GnRH analogues if the new NHS team responsible for your care makes a recommendation for initiation of treatment following an assessment, and if the paediatric endocrinology team related to the <i>NHS Children and Young People's Gender Service</i> agrees to initiate prescribing directly.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I am under 18 years of age; and</li> <li>• I am already being prescribed GnRH analogues through the NHS for gender incongruence or gender dysphoria</li> </ul>	<p>You are able to continue to receive GnRH analogues.</p> <p>The NHS Children and Young People Gender Service and local prescribers (if they are already prescribing) can continue to prescribe; the prescription will have to be endorsed by the</p>



	<p>prescriber to demonstrate that your situation meets the new requirements.</p> <p>However, <b><i>you are strongly advised to meet with your clinician so that the risks of continuation / initiation are fully understood.</i></b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I am under 18 years of age; and</li> <li>• I am already being prescribed GnRH analogues by a private medical practitioner, using a UK prescription, for gender incongruence or gender dysphoria</li> </ul>	<p>You are able to continue to receive GnRH analogues.</p> <p>The private medical practitioner can continue to prescribe; the prescription will have to be endorsed by the prescriber to demonstrate that your situation meets the new requirements.</p> <p>If the prescription was issued before 3 June 2024, you will need to provide proof of age when your medicines are dispensed if your prescription does not state your age/date of birth.</p> <p>However, <b><i>you are strongly advised to meet with your clinician so that the risks of continuation / initiation are fully understood.</i></b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I am under 18 years of age; and</li> <li>• I am already being prescribed GnRH analogues through a private prescription from a healthcare professional registered in the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland</li> </ul>	<p>You will <b>not</b> be able to receive GnRH analogues from a pharmacy in Great Britain from 3 June 2024 for a prescription issued from that date.</p> <p>Pharmacies in Great Britain can no longer dispense new EEA / Swiss prescriptions for GnRH analogues from 3 June 2024.</p> <p>You will need to stop taking GnRH analogues, unless you are newly prescribed them by a UK-registered doctor, nurse or pharmacist. These medications can be safely stopped and you do not need to be weaned off.</p> <p><b>You are strongly advised to meet with your clinician who initiated treatment for further advice and support.</b></p> <p>If you require psychological support, ask your GP to refer you to your local NHS mental health service for children and young people.</p> <p>Contact <a href="#">NHS 111</a> if you think that you are at immediate risk of psychological harm.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I am under 18 years of age; and</li> <li>• I am already being prescribed GnRH analogues for a purpose <u>other than</u> gender incongruence or gender dysphoria</li> </ul>	<p>The changes do not affect you, except that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NHS prescriptions are unaffected, but from 26 June 2024 the prescription will have to be endorsed by the prescriber to demonstrate that your situation meets the new requirements.</li> <li>• If it is a private prescription, issued before 3 June 2024, will need to provide proof of age and identity when your medicines are dispensed.</li> <li>• If it is a new private prescription, the prescription will have to be endorsed by the prescriber to demonstrate that your situation meets the new requirements.</li> <li>• If you are being prescribed by a prescriber registered in the EEA or Switzerland but not in the UK, new prescriptions will not be valid. Any new prescription will have to be written by a UK registered doctor, nurse or pharmacist. Seek advice from your GP. They may be able to prescribe for you if this is within their clinical scope of practice or they may make a referral to a relevant specialist.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I am aged 18 years or over</li> </ul>	<p>The changes do not affect you.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you are being prescribed by a UK private prescriber or a private prescriber registered in the EEA or Switzerland, you will need to provide documentary evidence of your age and identity such as your passport when your medicines are dispensed.</li> <li>• UK private prescribers will be able to endorse new prescriptions, issued on or after 3 June 2024, to save you the need to do this.</li> </ul>

From: [Redacted]@dhsc.gov.uk  
Sent: 31 May 2024 12:34  
To: [Redacted]  
Cc: [Redacted]  
Subject: NHS England Ops and patient guidance  
Attachments: New Government restrictions on use of Puberty Suppressing  
Hormones.docx; nhs-  
england-letter-31052024.pdf

Dear all,

Please see attached the NHS England ops guidance and link to the patient letter following the new restrictions on puberty blockers: [NHS England Letter 31.05.2024 \(ardengemcsu.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/england/letters-to-gp/2024/05/31/052024)

Thanks,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]