



Supply and administer medicines through exemptions - FAQs for information only

What are exemptions?

Exemptions would mean that our profession would be exempt from needing a prescription for certain POMs. So we could use (after certain training) LA and fluoride in our daily practice without a prescription PSD or PGD.

Why can't we prescribe the same way as a dentist does?

We don't have the same capacity that Doctors and Dentists do. No Allied Healthcare Professional does. We cannot prescribe LA and then use it on the patient, as a dentist does. If we had Independent Prescribing the patient would have to take the prescription we have written to be filled by a pharmacist and then return with the LA for us to use. This is quite a convoluted procedure and not conducive to a time managed clinic.

How long will it take?

It has taken other Healthcare professionals 5 years to make changes to the legislation relating to prescribing. We have the benefit of their experience so we hope it will not take that long but already the election being called early will have an impact on this timeline.

Other societies have funded people to work on this on their behalf. The time spent ranges from one person 4 days a week to one full time and one part time. BSDHT and BADT realise our profession is much smaller than the other professional bodies who pursued this and the DH of health has recognised this too. They have donated some money to help us. It is a small amount but non-the-less gratefully received.

We also don't believe that our membership should be solely responsible for funding this project. After all, the outcome will hopefully benefit the whole of our profession and the dental team. We have decided to

crowd fund in the first instance and to assess as time progresses.

The money to fund this project will cover someone to work 2 days a week for the next few years. This is much less than other professional bodies have had but the immediate past presidents of both societies have offered to give some of their time for free. If the workload increases to much more than this, then we will review and amend as necessary.

What if you have too much money donated?

That would be an ideal situation as anything not spent on the process we can then use to provide education. If we are successful we will have to undertake a course to prove we are capable of using certain exempt medications. As part of our work we will be detailing exactly what would be necessary in our undergraduate and postgraduate education. Being able to provide that education would be the best use of any extra money.

How can you help?

1. Even £10 from every registered DHT in the country would make this viable. Follow BSDHT on social media for updates on how to donate.
2. Complete a form giving information on your experiences of not having a suitable prescription or email your experiences to prescribing@bsdht.org.uk
3. Spread the word.
4. If not already a member of your professional body, sign up. The more members we represent, the stronger our case of need.
5. Visit the society's websites and keep up to date with our campaign.