

## Remote Worker Prescribing Policy

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<b>Applies to</b>	All Staff, Duty Doctors and Pharmacists
<b>Author</b>	Rahinatu Amadu
<b>Approved by</b>	Clinical Governance Team
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## 1. INTRODUCTION

South East London Doctors Co-operative (SELDOC) and South London Doctors Urgent Care (SLDUC) provides out-of-hours and unscheduled primary care services to patients registered with a GP practice in Lambeth, Lewisham, Southwark, Merton, Kingston, Wandsworth and Sutton CCGs including unregistered patients residing within its boundaries.

SELDOC/SLDUC has developed and implemented a working practice where Duty Doctors are providing services at locations other than the base site in Dulwich Community Hospital. This service is usually provided from a clinician's home and is referred to as '**remote working**' in this policy.

During the course of providing a service through remote working, it may become necessary to initiate a prescription for medicines.

## 2. LEGAL, ETHICAL AND GOOD PRACTICE GUIDANCE FOR PRESCRIBING

The law relating to prescribing of medicines is detailed in the Medicines Act 1968<sup>1</sup>, the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1971 (as amended)<sup>2</sup> and the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001<sup>3</sup> and the General Medical Council (GMC) expects doctors to comply with the standards of good practice set out in their guidance – *Good practice in prescribing medicines – guidance for doctors*<sup>4</sup>. *The Single Competency Framework for all prescribers*<sup>5</sup>. The policy will be updated in response to changes in regulations.

## 3. KEY PRINCIPLES TO CONSIDER

The documents cited above are clear on the following principles:

If you are the doctor/pharmacist signing and issuing the prescription you bear the legal and professional responsibility for that treatment

## 4. KEY POINTS FOR REMOTE WORKING DOCTORS WHO WISH TO INITIATE A PRESCRIPTION

SELDOC/SLDUC expects the following principles to be followed by all remote working doctors:

4.1 The legal responsibility for the prescription lies with the person who signs the prescription.

4.2 The remote working doctor must document a detailed record of the consultation

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1968/67/contents>

<sup>2</sup><http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1971/38/contents>

<sup>3</sup><http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2001/3998/contents/made>

<sup>4</sup>[http://www.gmc-uk.org/guidance/ethical\\_guidance/prescriptions\\_faqs.asp](http://www.gmc-uk.org/guidance/ethical_guidance/prescriptions_faqs.asp)

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.rpharms.com/support-pdfs/prescribing-competency-framework.pdf>

ensuring that ALL of the following information is available to the base/advice doctor/pharmacist signing the prescription

- complete patient details (name, age, address)
- complete drug history details including previous adverse reactions
- recent use of other medicines such as non-prescription and herbal medicines
- known medicines sensitivities or allergies – ‘none known’ must be stated if appropriate
- adequate assessment of the patient’s conditions and current symptoms

- 4.3 The doctor (known as the base/advice doctor or pharmacist) allocated to review and sign the prescription initiated by the remote working doctor **should not do so unless they can be convinced that all relevant information has been collected and accurately documented on Aداstra (the electronic database)**
- 4.4 The remote working doctor must explain to the caller that another doctor may contact them for further information if necessary to allow a prescription to be issued.
- 4.5 The base doctor will only sign a prescription for all medicines not included in the SELDOC/SLDUC formulary when they are convinced of the need for a medicine to be issued before the next working day and all the information in section 4.2 is available to them.