



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From Dr Zubir Ahmed MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
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25 November 2025

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Thank you for your correspondence of 29 October about extending independent prescribing rights to dietitians.

I appreciate your concerns.

The Government supports the expansion of professional groups being able to use legal mechanisms to supply medicines to patients, where it is safe to do so and within their scope of practice. Dietitians are highly valued for the vital role they play in public health, and this is reflected in their ability to supply medicines under patient group directions and, where appropriately trained, to act as supplementary prescribers.

A number of changes have already been made that allow allied health professionals to supply, administer or prescribe medicines when they have the necessary skills and experience. It is important to note that prescribing is a high-risk activity and should be properly regulated. There is a process in place for making changes to medicines responsibilities, to ensure those changes are safe and beneficial for patients. NHS England leads on developing clinical cases for change, in collaboration with the professional bodies. If proposals are progressed, changes must be made to the Human Medicines Regulations 2012, using the powers in the Medicines and Medical Devices Act 2021, and this requires a public consultation and debates in both Houses of Parliament.

Non-medical prescribing remains a keen area of interest for the Government. I would like to assure you that officials are carefully considering proposals relating to a range of healthcare professionals as part of wider work concerning non-medical prescribing. This includes ongoing work with NHS England to consider the proposals included within the Chief Professions Officers' medicines mechanisms consultations. The Department recently consulted on proposals to extend the medicines responsibilities of paramedics, operating department practitioners, physiotherapists and diagnostic radiographers. We are considering the outstanding requests for extending medicines responsibilities and progressing them relative to their readiness for change.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Z. Ahmed', is written above a horizontal line.

DR ZUBIR AHMED MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
for Health Innovation and Safety