



Frequently Asked Questions by the membership

Re: The current use of Local Anaesthetic (LA) by CORU Registered Podiatrists

We will continue to compile the FAQ's that we receive for our membership for your viewing

Q Can I purchase LA for in my podiatry practice?

A. At present you cannot purchase LA for your private practice.

Q Can I use LA in my podiatry practice?

A. Yes, but certain criteria and requests need to be fulfilled in order for this to happen

Q What are the current criteria and requests to use LA?

A. You must refer to a medical Doctor (GP) who will prescribe the LA for your patient to collect at their own pharmacy and bring to you in your practice so you can administer the LA. This request is completed in compliance with GDPR, and with the patient's consent, you can make a written request to the patients General Practitioner (GP) and request LA. This request for LA will be to complete a treatment option for the patient's foot complaint, usually nail surgery (PNA /TNA) for one or more digits, The correspondence will advise the GP of many details but will request the GP to prescribe LA.

Q What should be included in this request to the GP?

A. We suggest you include your professional and business details, CORU registration number, patient details, assessment findings including the patient's weight and height, photo of the affected area/s, treatment options, patients consent to treatment/request. It should also include the Prescription Only Medicine (POM) detail, (list what you are requesting from the GP). This is not an exhaustive list.

Q Can the GP refuse your request

A. Yes, the GP has the right to refuse your request for LA

Q Why do I need to request this from the GP?

A. Under current Irish legislation the only professionals who can prescribe, supply, store and administer LA (which is a prescription only medicine, POM) in the Republic of Ireland is Qualified Medical Doctors and Dentists

Q Why does the patient need to collect the prescribed LA from their own pharmacy?

A. The prescription is a POM for the patient therefore either the patient or the patient's representative will need to collect the prescription and take it to the podiatry appointment at the agreed date/time. Our role is to administer the LA and complete the agreed consented treatment to our patient.

Q Does my existing professional insurance cover this?

A. If your insurance is up to date, and you conform with the requested criteria and you are insured with AIG via the broker Arachas the SCPI now Podiatry Ireland have received confirmation that you are insured



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Q Is there an extra cost on my professional insurance policy for this?

A. Podiatry Ireland have not been made aware of any additional costs at this time.

Q When can I start offering treatment options that include the use of LA?

A. If you are trained in the use of LA, and have not used it in the last 6 months you will need to complete refresher training, if it has been greater than 6 months since you have used LA you may be deskilled and you may need to do a short course to upskill.

The SCPI now Podiatry Ireland will soon begin to advertise these courses please ensure you are connected to the CPD officers mailing list to keep notified of training course offered

Q Does the prescribing medical professional have to be present with the podiatrist when the podiatrist is administering LA?

A. No, there is no requirement for the prescribing medical doctor to be present

Q Is any other way of acquiring LA other than requesting it from the patients GP?

A. LA needs to be prescribed by a medical practitioner. Companies often offer medical doctor support for many products and services. One such company in Ireland is Etrack they are a private telemedicine company run by medical doctors. These medical doctors offer many services which can be purchased by podiatrists. The Podiatrist that requires LA for a patient treatment makes contact with Etrack to provide the service of prescribing the LA. This service is provided for a fee. The podiatrist if interested in the service provision of LA prescriptions via Etrack must contact Etrack directly and discuss.

Podiatry Ireland will be starting its upskilling process with a National Podiatrists CPD day on Sat 2nd March 2024. Please click the button below for further information.

National Podiatrists CPD day

