

To All Community Pharmacies in NHS Lothian

19<sup>th</sup> February 2019

**COMMUNITY PHARMACY VOUCHER SCHEME FOR TREATMENT OF CHLAMYDIA AND NON-GONOCOCCAL URETHRITIS (NGU)**

Dear Colleague,

Following an update to national guidelines, the treatment of chlamydia infection in NHS Lothian has been reviewed.

**From the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2019**, the first line treatment for chlamydia and non-gonococcal urethritis will be **100mg doxycycline twice daily for 7 days**. The Lothian Joint Formulary has been updated to reflect this change and a revised community pharmacy service specification and patient group direction (PGD) have also been produced. Both the service specification and the PGD are included with this communication and will be made available on the NHS Lothian [community pharmacy website](#) along with all relevant supporting information.

**Key Points:**

- Vouchers (either paper or text) may be presented by both patients and their partners
- The pharmacist must check that there are no contraindications before providing the voucher holder with doxycycline via the PGD
- The doxycycline should be labelled with the name of the voucher holder and the dosage instructions
- The voucher holder should be offered appropriate counselling advice
- There is no requirement to generate a prescription. Reimbursement for the service will be made via a claim form sent to Chalmers Clinic on a monthly basis
- You will find a voucher number on the paper or electronic voucher that you are presented with. This number must be added on to your claim form to ensure payment. This voucher number also allows the team at Chalmers to gather data around numbers of people treated as the voucher number relates to the presenting patient.
- To avoid fraudulent use of electronic vouchers, patients are told to delete the voucher in front of the pharmacist. This information is stated on the [website](#)

As with the previous service agreement, pharmacies will receive a £5 fee for each treatment given (in addition to the current drug tariff price for doxycycline). This fee is payable only upon receipt of the claim form which must include the voucher number(s). Community Pharmacy Lothian has been consulted on the new service specification.

**Actions required:**

- In order to participate in this locally negotiated service, we require two documents to be returned from each pharmacy:
  - ✓ **A signed Service Specification** - Sign and return Appendix 1  
(please check if this is being completed by your head office if you work for multiple)
  - ✓ **A signed PGD** -
    - Page 1 of the PGD should be signed under "Name of Designated PGD Holder" by the person in your pharmacy who will be responsible for the upkeep of the names of any pharmacist working under this PGD.
    - Page 2 should be signed by all pharmacists who will be working under the PGD in your pharmacy.
    - Locums/relief pharmacists should sign Page 2.
- Once signed, both documents should be returned to the following address:

**Scan PGD and Email** (using contractor generic mailbox) to:

[CommunityPharmacy.Contract@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:CommunityPharmacy.Contract@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk)

OR

**Post**

Community Pharmacy Contract Support Officer  
Primary Care Contracts Organisation  
NHS Lothian  
2nd Floor  
Waverley Gate  
2-4 Waterloo Place  
EDINBURGH  
EH1 3EG

Details on participating pharmacies (where patients can go to get treatment by paper or text voucher) will be uploaded on the Chalmers sexual health website  
[www.lothiansexualhealth.scot.nhs.uk/ChlamydiaTreatment](http://www.lothiansexualhealth.scot.nhs.uk/ChlamydiaTreatment)

Any questions about individual patients can be dealt with by the health advisers at Chalmers:  
[ChalmersHealthAdvisers@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:ChalmersHealthAdvisers@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk) 0131 536 2108

Yours sincerely,



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