**COPD Exacerbation Treatment 25/03/2020**

Dear Colleagues,

You will be aware that we have been trying to establish a full COPD exacerbation treatment service across NHS GG&C in line with the successful pilot completed in Renfrewshire last year. This was seen as a successful way of helping patients get treatment quickly, safely and in a timely manner to help ease or prevent an exacerbation from developing in COPD patients.

Training was planned in for next week and also in April where the new PGDs would be circulated with the SLA in order to start the service on the first of June.

In light of what is currently happening there is a dire need to get treatment regimes out to this cohort of patients urgently when they are required in advance of the launch of the extended service.

To facilitate this and to allow emergency, quick patient access to the drugs under this treatment the Respiratory MCN has decided a supply of rescue medicines (Doxycycline or Amoxicillin and Prednisolone) can be made by community pharmacies to patients identified by their GP practice as suitable. Once the practice has identified the suitability of the patient, the prescription will be sent to the nominated pharmacy for dispensing and supply to the patient for use, as and when required, for an exacerbation of COPD.

Once the first supply is made, community pharmacies will be able to utilise the patient's PCR to allow further supplies when required using the unscheduled care PGD.

**Please note: This is a temporary measure to allow community pharmacies to support patients who may need emergency access to treatments that could prevent them from having to access acute care through our emergency services.**

As we progress through this pandemic and come out the other end we will revert to our original plan of a full COPD service with training in place to help and support you deliver a more supportive service to the patients however we believed that it was critical that we put something in place to for this vulnerable cohort of patients at this time.

For those pharmacies within Renfrewshire, you should continue with your current service delivery of the new service that was extended after the pilot.

Your help and support in this are as always appreciated.

Kind Regards,

Alan

Alan Harrison

**Lead Pharmacist for Community Care**