**Key Messages – Day 8 26/03/2020**

Dear Colleagues,

We are hearing that things are slightly less chaotic for you this week; I hope that this is true and we hope that you are managing and coping. I’m going to try and summarise some of the key things that have happened since yesterday’s messages and some of the queries are coming in:

**1.**       **Community Pharmacy Contractors** were informed about the process to get some support from the prescribing support teams. I am sure that this is good news for many of you and I would encourage you to check the email for the details and liaise with the local team to help us to help you.

**2.**       **COVID-19 Testing** – we are receiving lots of emails requesting information on this. Alan Harrison is linking with the Pharmacy Services Exec around this and we will share information as and when we can. I know that it is frustrating that we cannot answer all the questions at the point of asking but some of these, like this one, are big, huge questions and we need to ensure that we follow due process in getting the answers. Watch this space!!!

**3.**       **Shortages** - we are still trying to provide a service around intelligence on the supply chain. Please report any shortages and to seek advice via prescribing inbox ([PRESCRIBING@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:PRESCRIBING@ggc.scot.nhs.uk)) We are continuing to check this mailbox whilst working remotely and will continue with normal monitoring as we can, linking with national procurement to try and keep key medicines in the chain.

**4.**       **Inhaler Shortages etc** – linked to the above, we have had several queries about shortages with inhalers. As far as our intelligence shows, there are no new manufacturing problems with these drugs. I know that things are extremely difficult for you, but it does appear that these shortages are being created due to supply and demand outstripping current stockholding. Rationing stock may be an option for you or querying patients presenting Rx that they haven’t had for many years!

**5.**       **Change in Model Hours** – please be aware that the Board have approved a reduction in model hours to allow CPs to open later, close earlier and have a lunch to help create some breathing space. There is a proforma available (<https://www.communitypharmacy.scot.nhs.uk/nhs-boards/nhs-greater-glasgow-clyde/> ) for you to complete and return to CPDT.

**6.**      **Clinical Mailbox** – some CPs are linking with their GP practices asking them to send any prescriptions into their clinical mailbox. This could help reduce the foot flow through the practice and cut back on phone calls between the practice and pharmacy. Might be something considering for indication CPs to think about.

Stay safe, keep well and keep doing a brilliant job ☺

Regards

Elaine

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