**Key Messages – Day 9 27/03/2020**

Dear Colleagues,

Hope you are all holding up. On a personal note, I had a massive lump in my throat last night at 8pm as my neighbours and surrounding areas stepped outside to #clapforcarers. So proud of my amazing Community Pharmacy colleagues!!!

1.       We are starting to receive reports about queries about dispensing private prescriptions for hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine for COVID-19 treatment. Please be aware that this is not a licensed indication and should not be prescribed for this reason. We are trying to identify prescribers and discuss with them directly but you need to be aware that these drugs are under clinical trial conditions for COVID-19 and should not be used for this purpose. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chloroquine-and-hydroxychloroquine-not-licensed-for-coronavirus-covid-19-treatment>

2.       Testing for COVID-19 – please be aware that the information circulated yesterday with regards to testing arrangements for COVID-19, that the tests are not for community pharmacy staff to be tested but members of their household contacts who are displaying symptoms. The accompanying guidelines are quite wordy (sorry!) but if you can read the guidance, then it does become clearer that the testing isn’t for Pharmacists and pharmacy staff.

3.       Earlier in the week I suggested that you link with your GP practice to share your NHSmail clinical mailbox with them to help cut down on under pressure phone calls (for you and them!). I’ve had a couple, of GPs ask if this is appropriate and I’ve guided them to talk to their pharmacies directly. However, please make sure you that you provide the clinical mail address (it’s the same as your generic one with the word ‘clinical’ in the middle). Please don’t give your individual NHSmail account as this is about sharing patient information.

Please try and take some time over the weekend to recharge and recuperate. This is going to be a long haul, so we need to be kind to ourselves as things change and evolve. Stay safe and stay well!

Regards

Elaine

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