**Key Messages – Day 11 01/04/2020**

Dear Colleagues,

I’m not sure if yesterday’s lack of key messages is a good thing.... does it mean that things are starting to move into a new normal for us? I don’t know yet, but I will try and summarise the changes, processes, policies that have come out in the past week. All have been circulated by email to the NHSmail accounts so if there is a point of interest then please refer the more detailed email.

**SUMMARY OF LAST WEEK’S DECISIONS AND CHANGES**

* Temporary change to model hours. Please submit the Proforma that was sent out back to CPDT.
* Testing to be extended to community pharmacy staff where a member of the household is displaying symptoms.
* PPE to be distributed to the Community Pharmacy network during this week. See the CPO letter sent last week.
* Supply of medicines for treatment of BBV medications
* Paracetamol PGD
* Extension of MAS to all patients.
* COPD rescue meds – GP practices will be reviewing their patients and prescribing medicines if appropriate. This means that a further supply may be carried out by the pharmacist using Unscheduled Care PGD.
* Support for community pharmacy team requiring help from Prescribing Support teams.

**ASSESSMENT CENTRES**

[COVID-19 Assessment Centre walkthrough](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dknYqZ-WyqU%20). Thank you to pharmacy staff involved in setting up, including a system for medicines supply to patients.

**COPD RESCUE MEDS – DOSE CLARIFICATION**

GP practices are producing prescriptions for prednisolone 30mg daily for 5 days for COPD exacerbation/ rescue medicine to have at home. If prednisolone 5mg tablets are unavailable, community pharmacists can provide 25mg tablets- one tablet daily for 5 days.  This can be done on CP4 Unscheduled Care (on UCF) without the need to contact the GP practice.

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Please note that for other indications for prednisolone, this may not be suitable (e.g. patient on long term steroids for another reason).

It is also recommended that you reiterate the advice to patients that they must contact their GP or NHS24 should they develop any symptoms of COVID-19.

**ADDICTIONS**

There is an urgent need to address any confusion that may have arisen following the recent circulation of guidance regarding the supervision and instalment dispensing of opiate substitute therapy (OST). Following discussions with Community Pharmacy GGC and Dr Carole Hunter, Lead Pharmacist Addictions, it was agreed that definitive guidance and supporter information pertinent to current practice would be prepared for circulation. These are attached to this email and supersede any previous guidance issued.

Regards

Elaine