**Key Messages 09/04/2020**

Dear Colleagues,

**LETTER FOR KEY WORKERS**

Community Pharmacy Scotland (CPS) website has copies of template letters for community pharmacy staff to access and use in the event of being stopped by Police Scotland to provide as evidence of key worker status. You can access these letters from: <https://www.cps.scot/covid-19-hub/key-worker-letters/>

**OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE**

We had a request for advice regarding locums/staff who may have been working in another pharmacy where there was a confirmed case of Covid-19. There is nothing in guidelines that specifically describes this situation but Healthcare Workers (HCW)s exposed to patients subsequently diagnosed positive should continue working unless they become symptomatic. HCWs should monitor themselves for symptoms for 14 days. This guidance is based on the likely length of exposure as being short.

Businesses are not advised to send everyone home to self- isolate if an employee becomes symptomatic. They are, of course, advised to exclude the employee. The assumption being that social distancing has been observed in the workplace.

**PPE UPDATE**

Further to the letter from the CPO (previously circulated) and yesterday’s messages of the day, we have a little more information for the re-ordering process.

* The PPE re-ordering mechanism will be for the type IIR masks only
* Gloves and aprons could in theory be supplied by the same route if required. However, this is not expected as there was enough supplied for every pharmacy to do at least 50 decontaminations.

Further explanation as to the type of PPE required can be found here:

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878571/T3_poster_recommended_PPE_for_ambulance_staff_paramedics_transport_pharmacy.pdf>

**MINOR AILMENT SERVICE – NEWBORNS**

Please be aware that even though newborns may not currently be able to register births and at a GP practice, and therefore not receive a formal CHI number, there is still a way to provide MAS consultations and prescribing to this patient group a there is a 3 month lag rule for newborns built into the ePharmacy system for newborns.

It was recognised decades ago (yes MAS is that old...... as is my NHS career eeek!) that a newborn may need care before the birth is officially registered and a CHI number created. The NSS registration team has indicated that the ‘3 month’ rule is working as expected.

In addition, CHI numbers are also being issued through NSS Medical teams.

Please continue to deliver the service as normal, with a registration and the system will catch up in due course. Further information will be placed on the NSS website to help with this.

**EHC**

A wee reminder that it is still important for continuity of services whilst we can. If you have chosen to start stepping down any particular service please ensure contingency plans are in place and that supporting services, including GP practices, are aware. For EHC consultations, if it is not possible to do within the pharmacy whilst maintaining social distancing measures and patient confidentiality, you may do so over the phone and have the medication ready for the patient to uplift on arrival.

**COPD RESCUE MEDS**

Communications were sent a couple of weeks ago to explain the new COPD rescue medicines processes and the ability to switch Prednisilone using Unscheduled Care PGD CP4 forms. Any future supplies required by the patient, following an exacerbation of their COPD, can be then supplied under the unscheduled Care PGD. Pharmacists are reminded to ensure that patients understand that they **should not** **take their rescue meds without discussing with their GP or NHS 24 during the COVID-19 outbreak** so that potential CV19 patients are not missed from appropriate assessment and treatment. You may choose to reinforce this message with a separate label to help remind patients to make this contact before using.

**COVID-19 ASSESSMENT CENTRES**

We now have most of the CV19 assessment centres (CAC) open across the health board area. The centres are located within: the old Woodside Health Centre, Barr St; Kirkintilloch Health and Care Centre; Clydebank Health Centre; Renton Medical Practice; Greenock Health Centre and Linwood Health and Care Centre. Two more are planned for Eastwood Health and Care Centre (opening shortly) and there will be one located in Port Glasgow as and when demand requires.

Most of the medicines required for CV19 symptoms or secondary infections will be proved on site to avoid patients accessing further services. However, there may be a requirement for some non-urgent medicines to be prescribed and GP10 pads will be shortly placed within the centres for this type of prescribing. Patients will be told not to access the pharmacy but to send someone else (not in their household and therefore not self-isolating) to have their medication dispensed. Work is under way to help make this as contactless as possible and prescribing requests may start to come into the community pharmacy NHS clinical mailbox.

A video showing how this is working in Greenock is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lb2Tjx4anWQ>

**EASTER WEEKEND SUPPORT**

There will be a reduced staff support within Pharmacy Services over the weekend with Clarkston Court been manned in a skeleton level on Friday and Monday should you have any queries.

Regards

Elaine