**DAILY UPDATE 17/04/2020**

Dear Colleagues,

Some key issues to update you on and reminders as we head into the weekend.

1. Prescribing habits have changed for many of the Opiate Substitution Therapy patients during this time and to help and support both the patient and the community pharmacy teams, we would remind you that when a prescription is written for example - for a week’s supply with daily dosages - the supply is made in individual daily bottles so that the patient is receiving an accurately measured dosage. The total quantity should never be supplied in a single receptacle on the assumption the patient will measure out. The risks associated with this are:
   1. Patient does not get an accurate dose on a daily basis;
   2. Patient, or other e.g. a child in the household, could take a large quantity in one go leading to overdose;
   3. A large receptacle in some cases will not fit into locked boxes that a number of patients have for safeguarding their medication.
2. More and more requests are coming in for prescriptions to be sent via email to the pharmacy. We would ask that you ensure that your emails are checked regularly throughout the day.  This is especially important for the clinical mailboxes.
3. We have another Public Holiday coming up on Monday 4th May. We would ask that you start to think about whether you will be opening on this day and further information regarding this will be issued next week.
4. A reminder that testing is now available for colleagues who show symptoms, so please utilise the process we have in place to ensure that we allow colleagues the opportunity to return to work if testing is completed and proves to be negative.

Conversations with a number of contractors recently suggest that the last two weeks have been less intense as the previous three before that. I hope that this has allowed pharmacy teams to regroup and in some cases get some well earned rest. Intelligence suggests that there could be a surge in the number of cases of COVID-19 about to come upon us in the next couple of weeks.  In preparation, I would ask that you continue with any safe guarding processes you have put in place around 2m distancing wherever possible, the wearing of PPE as per guidance, queue management processes where these have been put in place etc.

A huge thank you as ever from all at Pharmacy Services at NHS GGC for the ongoing fantastic effort in ensuring the pharmaceutical care needs of the patients in GGC are being met.

Kind Regards,

Alan Harrison

**Lead Pharmacist for Community Care**