**Key Messages 20/04/2020**

Dear Colleagues,

I hope that things are easing in terms of prescription numbers. Our data interrogation suggests that things are slowing down in terms of dispensing volumes and I hope that the receipt of the PPE and CV19 testing arrangements have made things easier for you all.

A few pointers below for today for you:

**REORDER OF PPE EQUIPMENT**

You should have received an email over the weekend from the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer with the arrangements for reordering stock of PPE. Please refer to this for any replacement stock.

**DISPOSAL OF PPE**

Work has been ongoing to update the pharmacy section of the Health Protection Scotland guidance with respect to disposal of masks. Following input from the Infection Prevention and Control team, Section 12 has been updated with the following statement:

*“At the end of a session involving use of PPE, masks should be removed as per Appendix 2.This should be placed in a disposable plastic bag, then placed in a secondary disposal bag, tied and held for 72 hours before being placed in the pharmacies domestic waste bin. If the pharmacy has a waste contract, masks once removed can be placed into waste immediately*.”

The guidance is available at <https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/web-resources-container/covid-19-guidance-for-primary-care/>

**DEALING WITH CARE HOME PRESCRIPTION FORMS**

We are being asked a lot about the risk of transmission from prescription forms coming from care homes and have sought to get some advice for Community Pharmacy teams around this. There is very little risk of COVID-19 coming off the paper, but to reassure you all, the advice would be that you wear gloves to handle the prescriptions with strict hand hygiene in between. It is important that that they do not touch their masks/faces etc. as per national guidance.

Another alternative or option for you would be to ask the home to place the prescription paper into a polypocket, allowing the CP team to disinfect the polypocket then dispense the medicines, and set to the side for 72 hours before removing the paper. We have been advised that after 72 hours the risk of any transmission would be negligible.

**SECONDARY CARE PRESCRIPTIONS**

Please remember to check the clinical NHSmail box regularly. Colleagues from the Beatson are sending prescription notifications to this email box and as it is important to maintain medication for this patient group, it is necessary to ensure that the NHS clinical mail is checked regularly.

Regards

Elaine

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