**Key Messages 30/04/2020**

Dear Colleagues,

**CHANGES TO TESTING FOR CORONAVIRUS**

Community Pharmacy Development Team (CPDT) published updated guidance on testing for community pharmacy staff and their household members yesterday (29th April). Revised procedures are now in place for health and social care staff in NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, including all staff working in community pharmacies and their household contacts, to access the network of testing facilities now established across GGC. This utilises an electronic referral form to be used by Line Managers to refer those meeting the criteria of new persistent cough and/or temperature above 37.8°C. The form is now an electronic e-Form.

Testing in this situation is being used to inform decisions about who can return to work to help support and maintain the provision of important health and social care services. Referrals should therefore only be made for staff who can realistically return to work in the event of their test being negative.

Please use this updated process should you have any member of your pharmacy team requiring testing. Further information can be found within yesterday’s email and also on the CPDT website. The FAQ on the website will be updated to reflect these changes.

**TELEPHONE CONSULTATIONS**

As part of the support for community pharmacy services to be continued as much as possible during these difficult and strange times, Community Pharmacists are asked to consider conducting telephone consultations if social distancing cannot be adhered to for services such as EHC and Pharmacy First. It is important to maintain these services as much as possible as a total withdrawal at this stage is not appropriate, when there are alternative ways of delivering the service. Please consider adopting this approach where it is not safe to provide face to face consultations.

**BANK HOLIDAY WHOLESALER DELIVERY ARRANGEMENTS**

We understand that two of the main pharmaceutical wholesalers will be providing a full delivery service on Monday 4th May but **no** deliveries at all on Friday 8th May (a bit like Good Friday arrangements in previous years). Please be aware of this when placing orders for patients next week as all of our community pharmacies will be open as normal on Friday 8th May as this is **not** the designated Board holiday.

**ACCESS TO ECS**

It is great to read about the positive way that access to the Emergency Care Summary (ECS) is having within the pharmacies already and how it is making delivery of pharmaceutical care to our patients more accessible. Good news stories are coming in and focus on when the prescription hasn’t been phoned down/through to the pharmacy. The Pharmacist can access ECS to see what was prescribed and then supply using Unscheduled Care PGD.

A perfect way to ensure safe supply of medications to patients without the added time and difficulty going between GP practice and pharmacy, either physically or by telephone.

Please feel free to contact me with any good news on how you are using Clinical Portal and ECS and I will happily share with the wider network as examples of good practice.

Regards

Elaine

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