**Key Messages 07/05/2020**

Dear Colleagues,

Please see below, the key messages for today.

**CLENIL® 100MCG - COLOUR CHANGE**

Due to increased demand, there have been extra batches of Clenil® 100 approved for use in the UK by MHRA. There is a difference in colour of the inhaler and there is no dose counter but all other aspects, they are the same as patients’, and you, are used to seeing. A letter for healthcare professionals is available [here](EP%2007.05.2020%20Clenil%20Letter.pdf) for your information. Stock is expected to come into circulation next week.

**PROFESSIONAL TO PROFESSIONAL TELEPHONE TO OOH CENTRES**

Telephone numbers for the professional to professional line were previously circulated to contractors to contact the out of hours centres if the Pharmacist had any queries or need to seek a clinical opinion, on a presenting condition or prescription without having to wait for NHS24. These numbers are not in the public domain and are only for those questions between Pharmacist and OOH clinicians.

As part of the ECS access planning we circulated an emergency number for those pharmacies who were not yet connected to ECS to allow a fast track access to NHS24 if there was a need to check someone’s ECS. This was primarily in place for Boots pharmacies who did not yet have their connectivity sorted.

This number should not be used for routine questions to NHS24 or OOH/GEMS centres. Please use the professional to professional number within the Unscheduled Care PGD documentation.

**PHARMACY FIRST CLAIMS AND PAYMENTS**

It has been confirmed to us by Community Pharmacy Scotland that there is no need to supply the CPD team with any claims information for the month of April for activity involved in the delivery of Pharmacy First through April. Your payments for April associated with Pharmacy First will be incorporate into the new base payments structure for the New Pharmacy First service that should have come into force on the 20th of April. Although the delivery of this service has been delayed the payments will come into effect from April 2020.

**UPDATE TO COVID-19 TESTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY PHARMACY TEAMS**

As Priority 1 Workers, community pharmacy teams should use their Health Board Testing Process which we have already supplied to you. In the event that these services cannot be accessed (e.g. some are not available at the weekend), self-referral can be made to the Glasgow/Edinburgh Airport sites.  The referral process detailed here needs to be followed – it is not possible to turn up at the airports without completing a self-referral and receiving a confirmation of your test.

<https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/>

**EARLY RELEASE OF PRISONERS**

Under the Coronavirus (2020) Act a limited number of individuals serving short-term sentences will be released from prisons across Scotland starting week commencing 4th May and running till August 2020.

Ministers considered this a necessary and proportionate response to the current situation in prisons, enabling the Scottish Prison Service to improve capacity as they move towards single-cell occupancy and continue to work to maintain a safe custodial environment.

Around 300-450 prisoners falling into specific eligibility criteria will be considered for early release (the exact number is presented as a range as the prison population is dynamic) and this will be undertaken over three distinct phases.

People in prison are a vulnerable group, experiencing multiple and complex health and social care needs. Close communication between prisons and community partners will be needed to ensure continuity of care across all the areas we know can present challenges on release, including GP registration, continuity of prescriptions, and substance use.

NHSGGC Prison Healthcare has taken the decision to issue prisoners released from NHSGGC prisons with prescriptions for 28 days’ supply of medication which they can take to a community pharmacy of their choice. These prescriptions will be handwritten on an HBP pad. Each patient will have been risk assessed by a GP at the prison and, where deemed clinically appropriate, there may be instructions on the prescription indicating that the supply is made in weekly instalments.

**OPTOMETRY**

An email was shared yesterday with regards to the arrangements in place for optometry services and a reminder for the optometry referral form for products to be supplied using MAS. The email has some important information regarding reminders for the changes to MAS and the service that optometrists are providing during the CV19 pandemic.

Take care and stay safe everyone!

Regards

Elaine

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