Dear Colleagues

Please find attached the latest NHS circular advising on the Smoking Cessation service delivery during COVID-19.

Provision of the smoking cessation service is more important now than ever and your support continuing it through this challenging time is greatly appreciated.

The circular describes some temporary flexibility in service provision which I have highlighted below.

It also describes how some Health Boards may support pharmacies with MDS submissions if the pharmacies have been unable to complete them**. In NHSGGC we are able to provide this support where required.**

The temporary changes include

* No requirement for ” week zero” in some cases
* CO monitoring to be temporarily suspended (record as ‘unable to perform reading’ from drop down list)
* At the pharmacists’ discretion behavioural support can be provided less frequently than every week and if necessary by phone or video call.
* If appropriate pharmacists have the option to supply more than one week ( up to four weeks in some cases) of pharmacotherapy

The pharmacies must still

* Complete the initial data capture
* Ensure they record the client’s contact number
* Follow clients up and record the 4 and 12 week MDS data submissions

For the next six months where data is incomplete the NHSGGC Health Improvement team will help by following up and recording the 4 and 12 week outcomes. However we still encourage pharmacy staff to continue doing this for their own clients where possible.

 Kind Regards,



Hilary Millar

Lead Pharmacist Health Improvement