



Dear Colleague,

The CP Greater Glasgow and Clyde committee have been meeting with our Health Board colleagues on a twice weekly/ weekly basis since the middle of March when Covid-19 hit. We are working hard to understand challenges for the Board and the network and to work together to agree how to resolve issues and what changes are required to support the whole of the NHS to be there for our patients.

The agreed immediate areas of work are; hospital discharge medicine supply, serial prescriptions rollout and pharmacy first/independent prescribing. This communication addresses only serial prescription rollout.

As part of our ongoing discussions with NHS GG&C about the possibility of a second peak and the management of workload within community pharmacies, **we have agreed immediately to significantly increase the rollout of serial prescriptions.**

Moving the management of these repeat prescriptions into community pharmacy will give us much greater control over our workload reducing the amount of ad-hoc work. This is not without its challenges however, especially for pharmacies who have historically not received any or many serial prescriptions. We are working with the Board on a number of supportive elements including PMR user guides for serial prescriptions, hints and tips from contractors who have experience with serial prescriptions and IM&T support. More information on these areas will be shared imminently.

Our pharmacy team colleagues within GP practices will have this as an area of focus in the near future and it's likely that most or all contractors across the Board will see an uplift in the number of serial prescriptions received.

We understand this is a challenging time and that the immediate implementation may cause some concern, however on balance feel it's the best way to allow our network to control a larger proportion of our work should we face a second peak in the coming months. This also reduces infection transfer by having fewer paper and consequently people moving around the system.

We would ask that you start as a matter of urgency to consider the systems in place within your pharmacies for managing and processing serial prescriptions to ensure this implementation is a success. Serial prescriptions from this work may start to arrive in pharmacies from early June.

All generic pharmacy email addresses within NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde should receive copies of IM&T facilitator supplied support guides for your PMR.

We are also working on further guidance from contractors who have recent experience with high numbers of serial prescriptions to help. These should be sent out on either Tuesday or Wednesday this week.

Should you require further help or support, here are a list of possible contacts.

For questions:

On this implementation, contact Alasdair Macintyre amacintyre@nhs.net or Mark Feeney markfeeney@nhs.net from Community Pharmacy Greater Glasgow and Clyde committee

On IT issues (where you require support from IM&T facilitator), these should be logged through the NHS GG&C helpdesk on 03456125000

On local operational issues, please speak directly with your HSCP pharmacy lead, or your local practice pharmacy team.

For PMR issues, you should contact your own PMR supplier.

Kind Regards,

Alasdair and Alan

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