



21st April 2020

COVID-19: INFORMATION on CONTINUING PAYMENT FOR SUPERVISED CONSUMPTION

Dear Colleague,

I'm writing to update you with our plans for continuing to support community pharmacies during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In order to support social distancing and self isolation of our clients where necessary, and to ease pressure on community pharmacies we have moved, or are in the process of moving most of our clients away from supervised consumption. There will be a minority of clients who will still remain on supervised consumption and we are grateful for your support in facilitating this.

We recognise however, that a drop in supervised consumption means a reduction in the payments we make to you by way of the enhanced service that we commission from your pharmacy.

In light of this we have committed to continuing to pay for supervised consumption at pre-pandemic levels until at least 30th June 2020. We will then review the situation, taking into account the level of lockdown after 30th June.

Action for pharmacies

Please continue to record episodes of supervised consumption on PharmOutcomes. It is important that you record **actual** service provision rather than an estimate.

What we will do

We will look at levels of activity for your pharmacy using the average of January/February 2020 as a baseline.

We will compare the baseline with your pharmacy's actual service provision for each month from 1st March to 30th June and pay an uplift of the difference.

This means that your pharmacy may receive two separate payments for supervised consumption: one based on episodes input into PharmOutcomes and a separate uplift payment.

Needle/Syringe Provision (NSP)

If you provide a needle/syringe service under contract with us, please keep this running wherever possible, as now more than ever, it is vital that we get clean equipment out there to ensure minimise risk of spread of BBV and other related

harm from reuse of needles.

Clients should be given whatever they need in order to keep themselves safe, and are able to collect for friends who may be self-isolating due to coronavirus but we would suggest that two weeks supply would be a suitable amount. Our supplier (Orion Medical) has assured us that they are able to replenish pharmacies quickly in order to meet demand.

I would be grateful if you would let your local We Are With You service know if your pharmacy has stopped providing NSP.

Thank you for your ongoing hard work and commitment during this difficult time.

With kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rachel Britton', written in a cursive style.

Dr Rachel Britton

Director of Pharmacy

www.wearewithyou.org.uk