

To Pharmacy Managers

Dear Colleague

West Sussex County Council Commissioned Public Health Services and Covid payments

Firstly, on behalf of West Sussex County Council we would like to say thank you for the commitment and hard work of community pharmacy teams in very difficult and challenging times. We are aware that Sussex Clinical Commissioning Groups are supporting you to step away from non-essential work and Public Health England have recommended that West Sussex County Council public health take similar steps as set out below.

In recognition and support of the key role community pharmacies have in the front line of the current COVID-19 emergency Public Health at West Sussex County Council propose temporary, time limited, amendments to the Public Health Community Based Services Contract which commenced on 1 April 2020 (the "Contract") and service specifications effective from 1st April 2020, for the period of 3 months ending on 30 June 2020.

West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) has agreed to pay Pharmacies for the delivery of Public Health Services under the Contract on a quarterly in advance basis for the first quarter of 2020/21 in order to ease the administrative burden on these services as Community Pharmacies are part of the frontline response to the Covid-19 situation. Payment in advance for the first quarter of 2020/21 would allow you to focus upon the delivery of services which also support WSSCC's primary objectives for its response to Covid-19 as (a) preservation of life (b) promoting recovery and (c) maintaining critical services. Should any activity be provided Pharmacies are obliged to use PharmOutcomes, a web based tool to record activity, but no monthly payments will be made i.e. during the first quarter of 2020/21 and should the current circumstances and associated restrictions remain in place longer than 30th June 2020, the situation will be reviewed by WSSCC prior to this date. Contract monitoring and service targets for the Contract will be temporarily relaxed or suspended to support the changes in general practice needed for the COVID-19 response and in line with their business continuity plans.

The quarterly advance payment amount (calculated by WSSCC as an average of activity delivered over the previous 11 months) will be set out in the formal contract variation that will follow shortly including details of how and when payments will be made.

As you are aware the Contract commenced on 1st April 2020 and has been signed and returned by a large number of pharmacies. For those pharmacies who have not yet signed and returned their Contract Agreement Form, we would ask you to do so as soon as possible and in the interim we will consider there is an implied contract in place based on the new Contract terms and conditions, including the specification and rates, which all bidders accepted as part of their tender submission for the new contract.

Apart from the changes set out in Appendix 1, the specifications and payment rates will remain the same as set out in the Contract.

Regards

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Contracts Manager

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Appendix 1

West Sussex County Council Public Health Services – Pharmacy Provision

- **Declaration of Competence (DoC)** , where required for any Public Health Service renewal, this will not need to be renewed in April and will be reviewed in six months allowing pharmacist to focus on front line clinical care.

- **Sexual Health Services – Emergency Hormonal Contraception:** We are all aware of the pressures that you are all working under in these difficult times and we appreciate the stress and concern this must cause with the social distancing policies to deliver consultations in consultation room. Hence, we have relaxed the need of having the consultations in consultation room and can be done via phone. **Supply of this medicine is time critical where there is a need for EHC and hence we urge pharmacist to keep the social distancing policy in mind to make the necessary supply.** o ‘During the COVID-19 situation those needing to self-isolate can have telephone consultations for EHC and send someone to pick up the medication on their behalf. A name and address of those requiring the medication will need to be given as identification by the person picking up on their behalf.’

The PGD has been amended to include the following:

The integrated sexual health services are running a reduced service during the COVID-19 situation due to staff redeployment and sickness within the acute settings. Please check their website for the most up to date information <https://www.sexualhealthwestsussex.nhs.uk/>

- **NHS health checks** **NHS health checks** is considered non-essential as they cannot be delivered whilst maintaining the current Government advice of social distancing and avoiding non-essential travel. Distribution of external quality samples has been suspended until further notice. Whilst activity returns are not expected we may still be required to submit a return to NHS Digital for NHS health checks. We leave it to Pharmacies discretion to deliver a service or return data.

- **Stop Smoking support** - As stated by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Matt Hancock MP last week: “It is abundantly clear from the research into previous coronaviruses that smoking makes the impact of a coronavirus worse.” The National

Centre for Smoking Cessation and Training (NCSCCT) has recommended ceasing all face-to-face stop smoking service appointments and providing behavioural support via telephone or remote systems. NCSCCT is looking to develop resources to support this you can view NCSCCT’s current recommendations here: https://www.ncsct.co.uk/publication_COVID-19_18.03.20.php

Smoking cessation services can continue as over the phone consultations, with NRT being delivered or posted, if appropriate. Carbon monoxide testing cannot be done, and so we ask that initial carbon monoxide readings are recorded as 19 on Pharmoutcomes. Four-week outcomes will be self-reported.

- **Additional Stop Smoking Support** - West Sussex Wellbeing are continuing to deliver smoking cessation service via the telephone and therefore we recommend that if you are unable to continue to offer this service that you signpost people via the West Sussex Wellbeing website www.westsussexwellbeing.org. Should that change due to redeployment we will keep that website updated.

- **Alcohol Identification and Brief Advice service:**

This service may be continued at your discretion. There are indications that people are drinking more alcohol at the moment, therefore you may wish to consider putting an alcohol scratch card and the 'Help and Advice about Drinking' leaflet into prescription bags (while stocks last) as an alternative delivery method.

Other options include signposting patients to DrinkCoach.org.uk which offers online alcohol Identification (screening) and Brief Advice, as well as free one-to-one support via Skype.

Patients can also be signposted to the West Sussex Wellbeing website for details of a wide range of telephone and online-based alcohol support services (including DrinkCoach), as well as support for those affected by someone else's drinking. Visit www.westsussexwellbeing.org.uk